Story & Illustration by

YAYOMI YUCHI

10

遊知 やよみ

FukuyaDouHonpo

福家堂本舗

AUTHOR'S NOTE

People often ask me "Is there a wagashi shop that I feel resembles Fukuya?" Well, I'm sorry I haven't found any wagashi shop that I can say "That's my Fukuya shop!" Why don't you give yourself a tour around the numerous wagashi shops in Kyoto? You may find your own "Fukuya shop" among them.

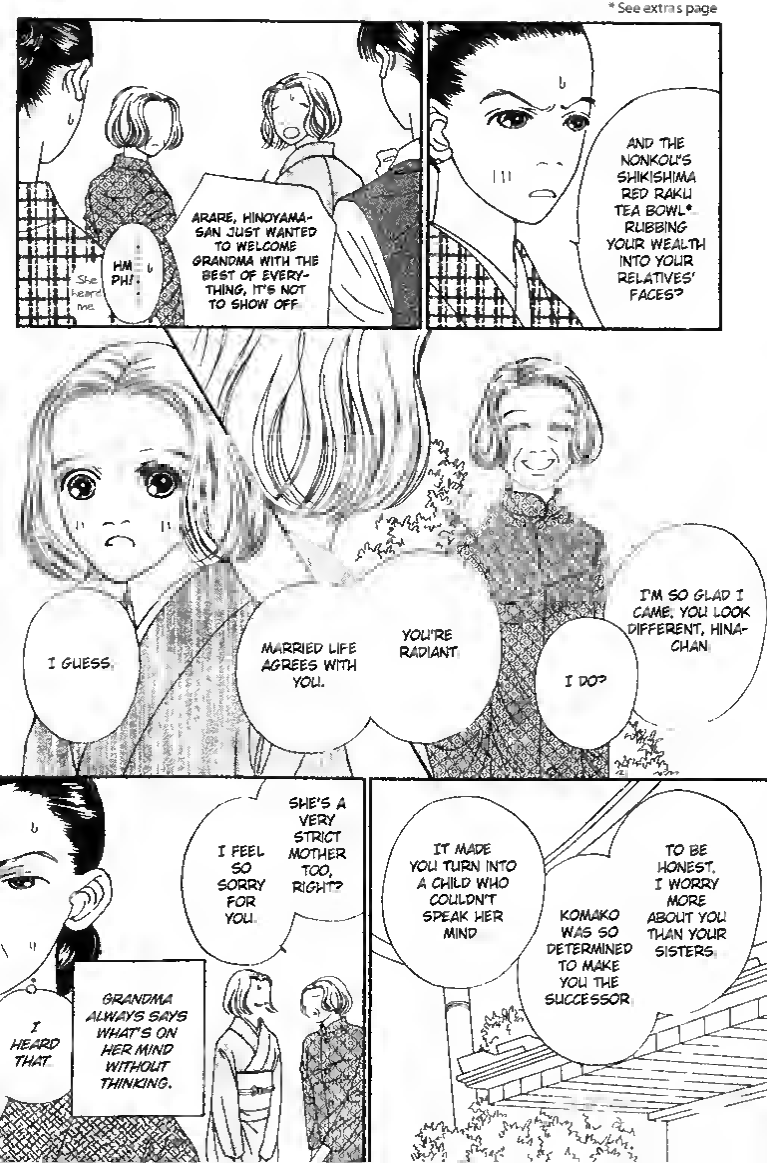
- Yuchi Yayomi

Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
福家堂本舗
⑩
YAYOMI YUCHI

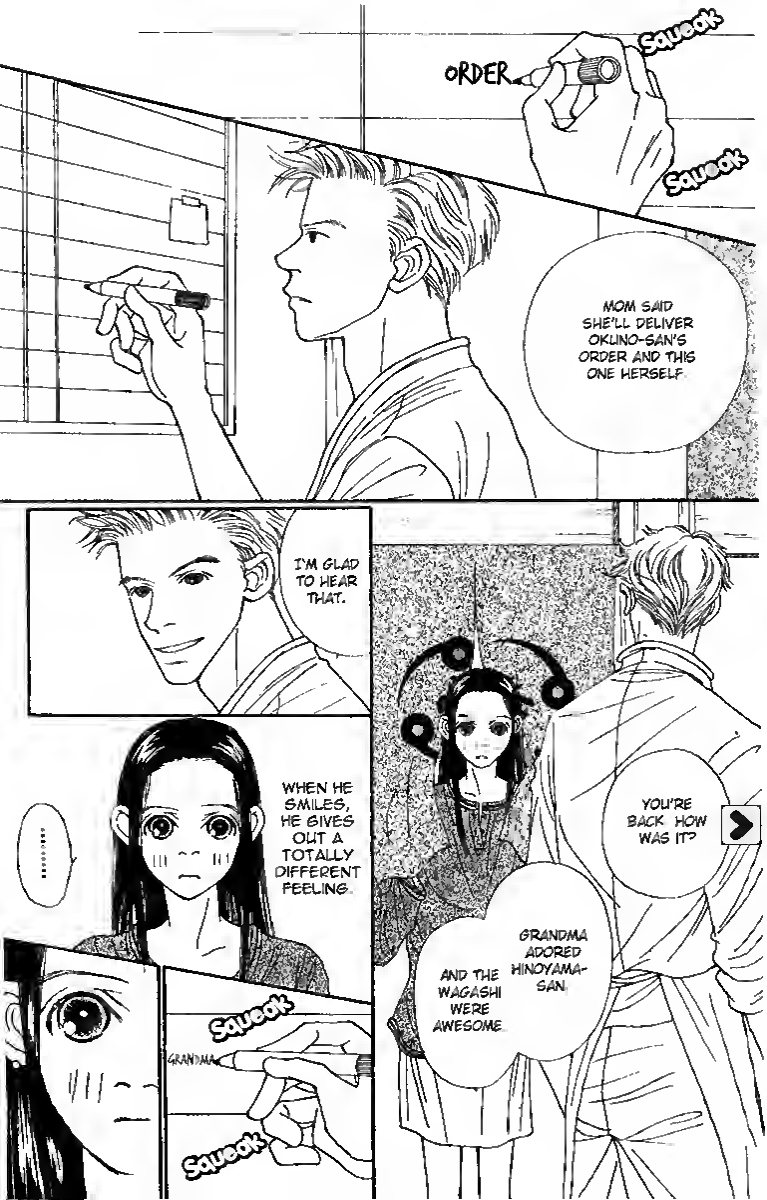
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE SHOP AT ALL LATELY.
I'M GRATEFUL YOU CAME BY TODAY.
MY VISIT IS PRETTY IMPULSIVE SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU. BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS A CHANCE TO STOP BY.
IT'S OKAY.
I REGRET THAT HE ISN'T HERE WITH US TO WELCOME YOU HIMSELF.
MY GRANDFATHER IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO KYUSHU.
AND PERFECTLY TIMED AS WELL HINOYAMA-SAN HARDLY EVER HAS A DAY OFF TO STAY HOME LIKE THIS.
YOUR VISIT IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

AWW, NOT AT ALL.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET YOU, AS WELL. I'M SURPRISED BY HOW YOUNG YOU LOOK.
BUT I'M GLAD I CAME. YOU LOOK LIKE A GOOD MAN. IT PUTS MY MIND AT EASE
I'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE, HINOYAMA-SAN, SO I WAS A LITTLE CONCERNED
SUCKING UP ALREADY, SLY FOX?
AND THE PICTURE OF THE JUJUBE TREE?
THE WILD JUJUBE TREE FROM THE PICTURE OF A LONG-TAILED FOWL MAKI-E* DONE BY SEIAMI*
WHAT ABOUT THE TEA WHISK?
THAT'S THE ART OF THE RIKKANSAI*
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME ADMIRE THEM. KEEP THEM SAFE.
See extra page

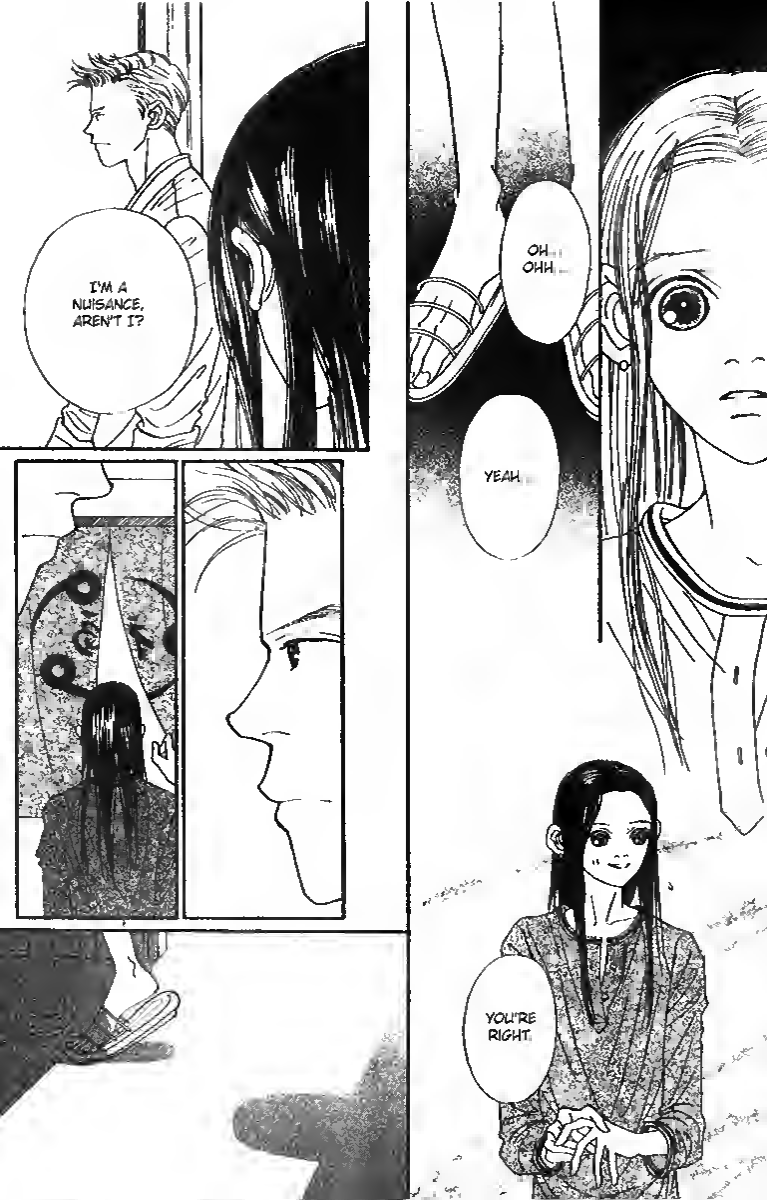
* See extras page

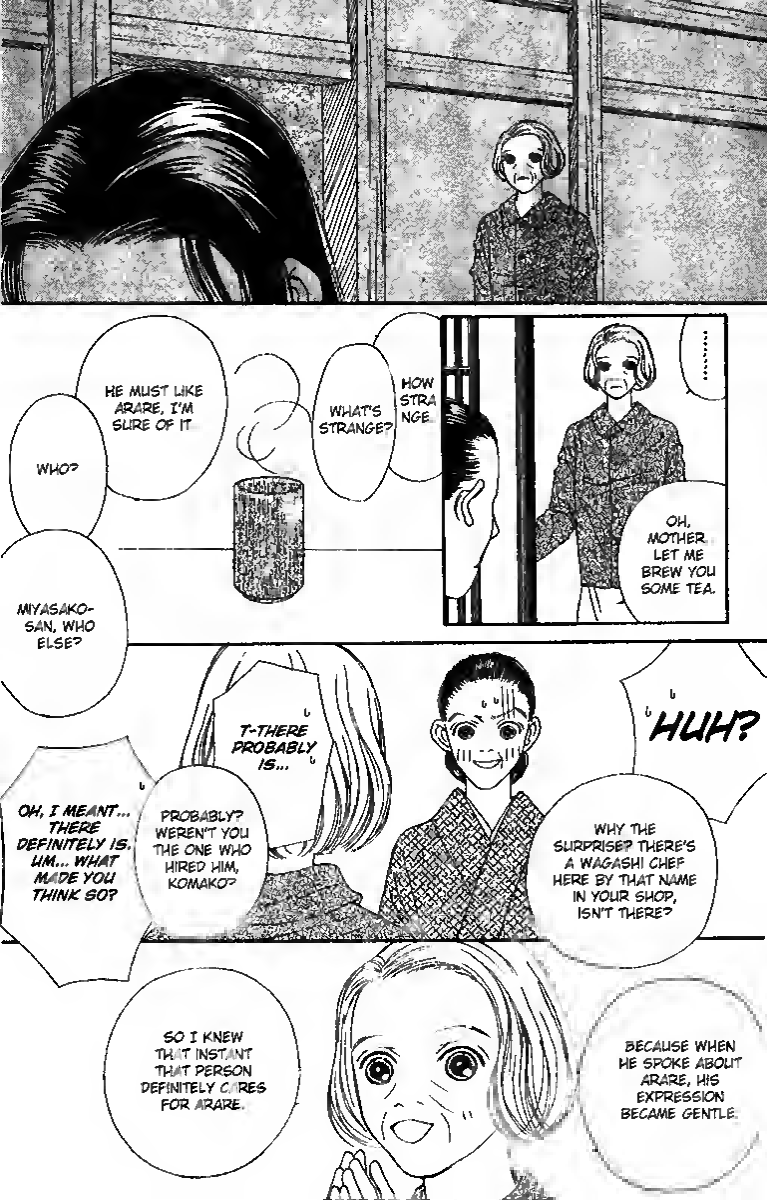

HM—PH!
She heard me.
ARARE, HINOYAMA-SAN JUST WANTED TO WELCOME GRANDMA WITH THE BEST OF EVERY-THING, IT'S NOT TO SHOW OFF.
AND THE NONKOU'S SHIKISHIMA RED RAKU TEA BOWL* RUBBING YOUR WEALTH INTO YOUR RELATIVES' FACES?
I GUESS.
MARRIED LIFE AGREES WITH YOU.
YOU'RE RADIANT.
I DO?
I'M SO GLAD I CAME. YOU LOOK DIFFERENT, HINA-CHAN.
I HEARD THAT.
GRANDMA ALWAYS SAYS WHAT'S ON HER MIND WITHOUT THINKING.
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR YOU.
SHE'S A VERY STRICT MOTHER TOO, RIGHT?
IT MADE YOU TURN INTO A CHILD WHO COULDN'T SPEAK HER MIND
KOMAKO WAS SO DETERMINED TO MAKE YOU THE SUCCESSOR
TO BE HONEST, I WORRY MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOUR SISTERS.

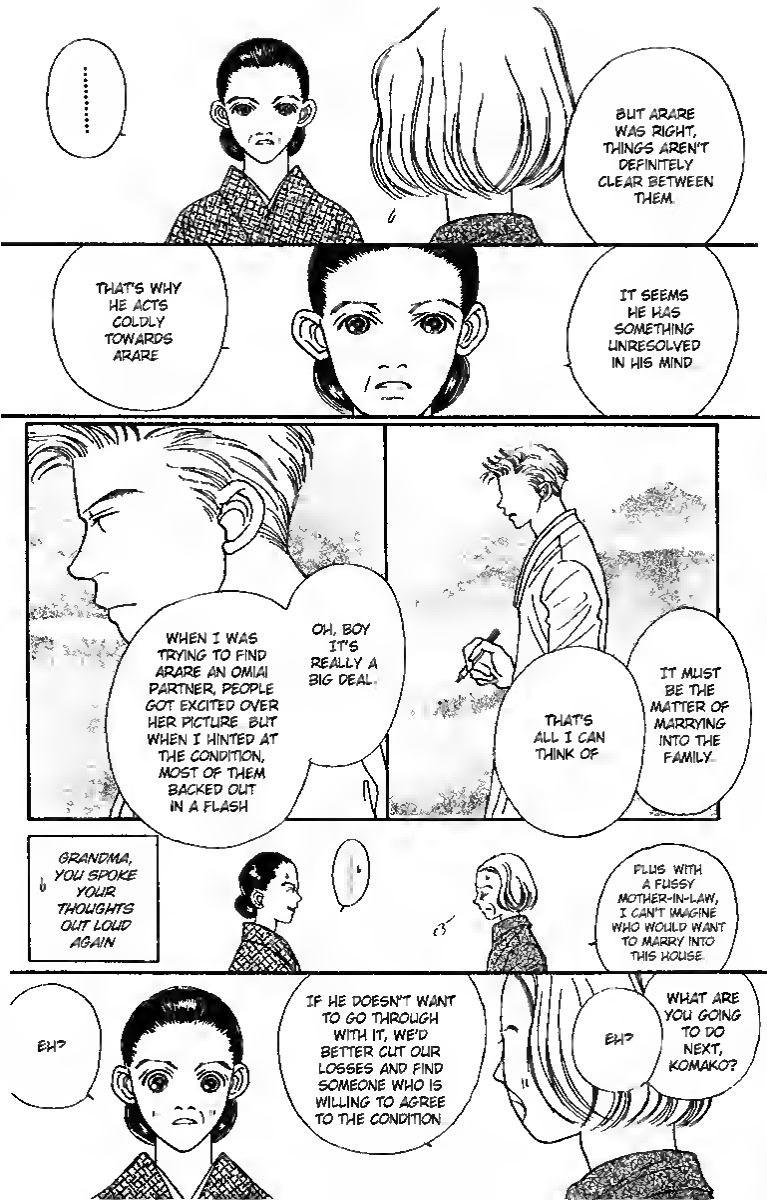
THE WAGASHI TODAY WERE REALLY DELICIOUS.
THAT'S BECAUSE KEN-CHAN MADE THEM. IF IT'S FOR ONEE-CHAN, HE ALWAYS DOES HIS BEST
EVERYONE AROUND ME ALWAYS PUT ONEE-CHAN BEFORE ME.
DAMN, HOW I ENVY ONEE-CHAN!
AH.
I- I WAS KIDDING. I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS YOUR FAULT OR ANYTHING.
DON'T MIND ME.
.....

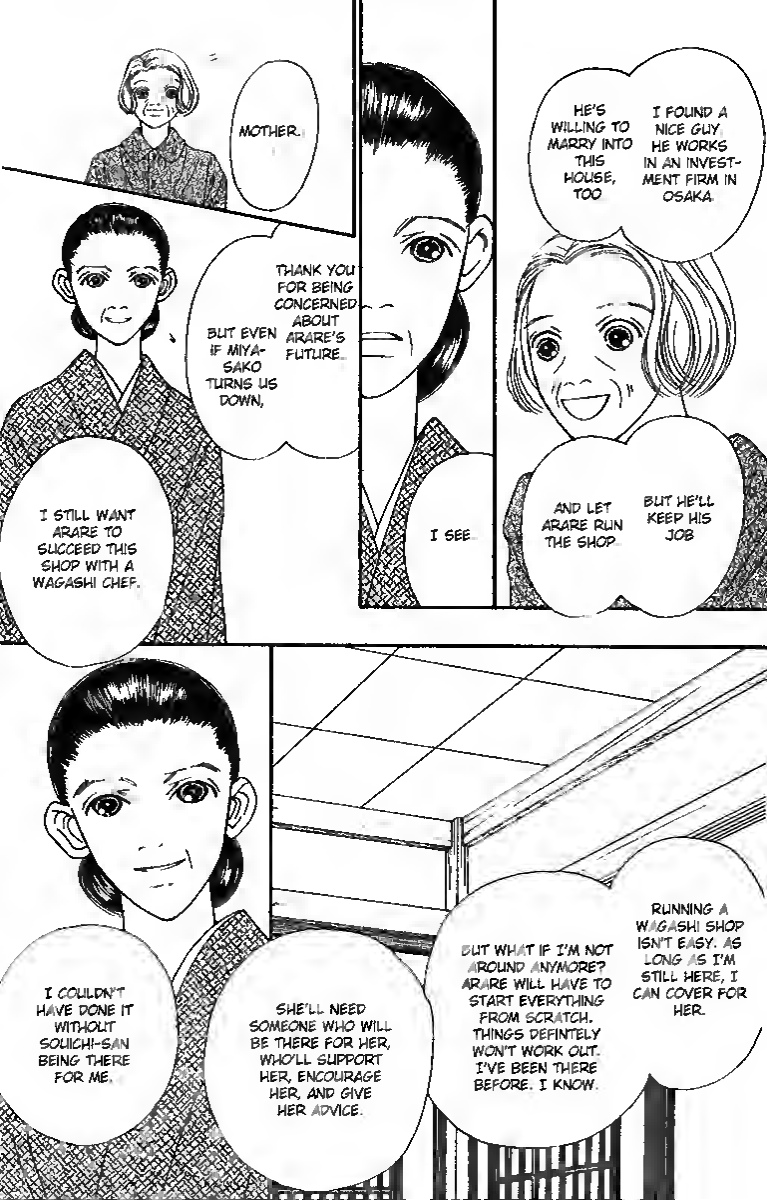

ORDER
Squeak
Squeak
MOM SAID SHE'LL DELIVER OKUNO-SAN'S ORDER AND THIS ONE HERSELF.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
YOU'RE BACK. HOW WAS IT?
GRANDMA ADORED HINOYAMA-SAN.
AND THE WAGASHI WERE AWESOME.
WHEN HE SMILES, HE GIVES OUT A TOTALLY DIFFERENT FEELING.
.....
GRANDMA
Squeak
Squeak

Squeak
Squeak
KEN-CHAN, UMM... UHH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER TOLD YOU CLEARLY ABOUT MY FEELINGS EITHER. SORRY I THREW A TANTRUM
PLEASE LET ME SAY IT NOW
UHH... TOWARD KEN-CHAN.. SINCE BEFORE... I...
ARARE
I'M WORKING


I'M A NUISANCE, AREN'T I?
OH... OHH...
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

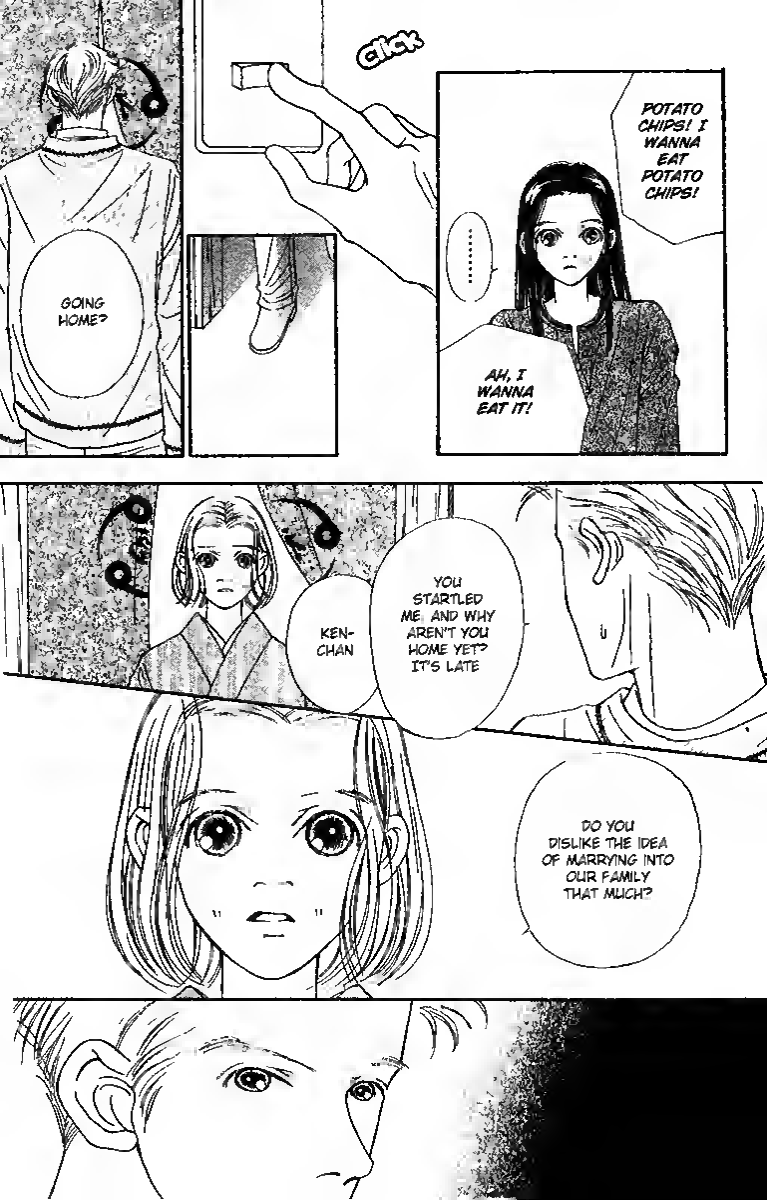

.....
OH, MOTHER. LET ME BREW YOU SOME TEA.
HOW STRA NGE.
WHAT'S STRANGE?
HE MUST LIKE ARARE, I'M SURE OF IT.
WHO?
MIYASAKO-SAN, WHO ELSE?
HUH?
T-THERE PROBABLY IS...
OH, I MEANT... THERE DEFINITELY IS. UM... WHAT MADE YOU THINK SO?
PROBABLY? WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO HIRED HIM, KOMAKO?
WHY THE SURPRISE? THERE'S A WAGASHI CHEF HERE BY THAT NAME IN YOUR SHOP, ISN'T THERE?
SO I KNEW THAT INSTANT THAT PERSON DEFINITELY CARES FOR ARARE.
BECAUSE WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT ARARE, HIS EXPRESSION BECAME GENTLE.


.....
BUT ARARE WAS RIGHT, THINGS AREN'T DEFINITELY CLEAR BETWEEN THEM.
THAT'S WHY HE ACTS COLDLY TOWARDS ARARE
IT SEEMS HE HAS SOMETHING UNRESOLVED IN HIS MIND.
WHEN I WAS TRYING TO FIND ARARE AN OMIAI PARTNER, PEOPLE GOT EXCITED OVER HER PICTURE. BUT WHEN I HINTED AT THE CONDITION, MOST OF THEM BACKED OUT IN A FLASH
OH, BOY IT'S REALLY A BIG DEAL.
THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF
IT MUST BE THE MATTER OF MARRYING INTO THE FAMILY.
GRANDMA, YOU SPOKE YOUR THOUGHTS OUT LOUD AGAIN
PLUS WITH A FUSSY MOTHER-IN-LAW, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO WOULD WANT TO MARRY INTO THIS HOUSE.
EH?
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, WE'D BETTER CUT OUR LOSSES AND FIND SOMEONE WHO IS WILLING TO AGREE TO THE CONDITION
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT, KOMAKO?

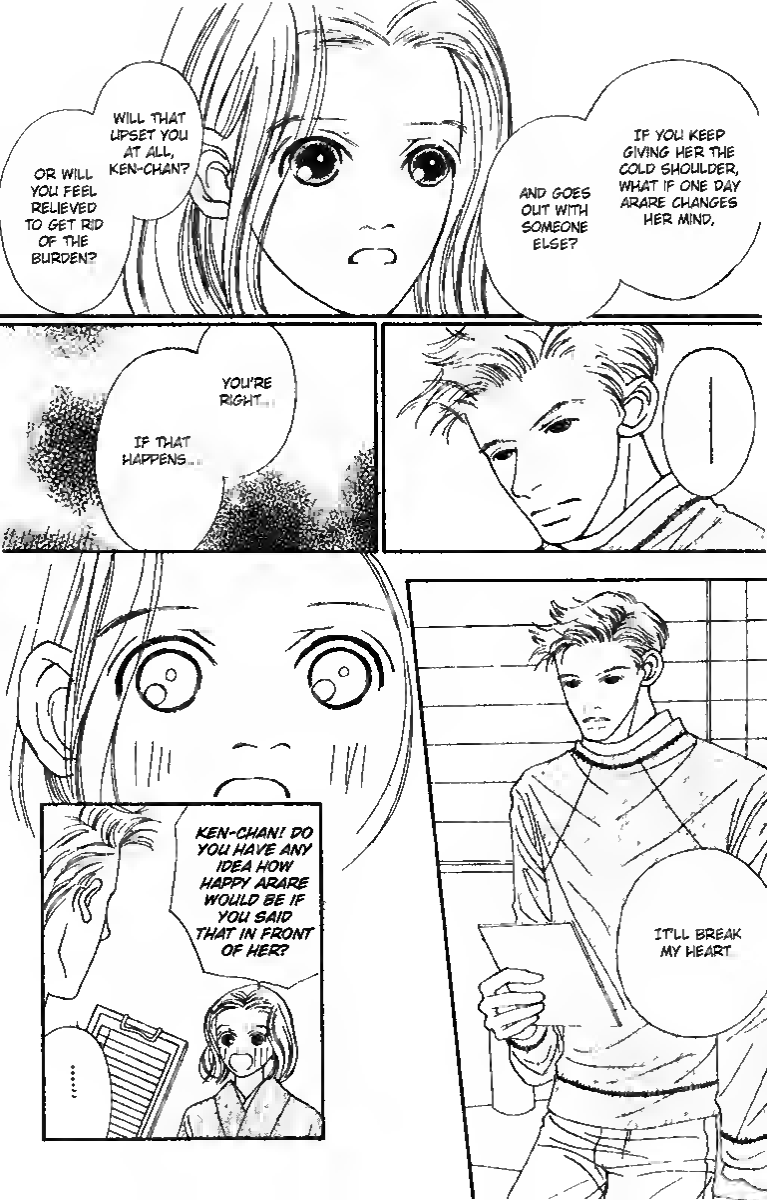

MOTHER.
I FOUND A NICE GUY HE WORKS IN AN INVEST-MENT FIRM IN OSAKA.
HE'S WILLING TO MARRY INTO THIS HOUSE, TOO
THANK YOU FOR BEING CONCERNED ABOUT ARARE'S FUTURE.
BUT EVEN IF MIYA-SAKO TURNS US DOWN,
I SEE.
BUT HE'LL KEEP HIS JOB
AND LET ARARE RUN THE SHOP.
I STILL WANT ARARE TO SUCCEED THIS SHOP WITH A WAGASHI CHEF.
RUNNING A WAGASHI SHOP ISN'T EASY. AS LONG AS I'M STILL HERE, I CAN COVER FOR HER.
BUT WHAT IF I'M NOT AROUND ANYMORE? ARARE WILL HAVE TO START EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH. THINGS DEFINTELY WON'T WORK OUT. I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE. I KNOW.
SHE'LL NEED SOMEONE WHO WILL BE THERE FOR HER, WHO'LL SUPPORT HER, ENCOURAGE HER, AND GIVE HER ADVICE.
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT SOUICHI-SAN BEING THERE FOR ME.

.....
I DIDN'T KNOW.....
SOUICHI, HE.....
YES
ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN PUSHING THE MATTER OF ARARE AND MIYASAKO.
OH, YOU HAVE? TELL ME.
AND MIYASAKO
PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM ARARE
EH?!
HASN'T TURNED US DOWN.
ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I PROPOSED THAT HE SUCCEED TO FUKUYA WITH ARARE.
OH!
HE SEEMED RELUCTANT.....
BUT HE DID SAY "IF ARARE IS SERIOUS ABOUT IT, I'LL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT."

OH! THEN MY INSTINCTS WERE CORRECT! HE DOES HAVE FEELINGS FOR ARARE!
WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT
ARARE
THE DINNER TONIGHT WAS TOO SMALL, WASN'T IT? I HARDLY ATE MY FILL.
MY STOMACH IS RUMBLING AGAIN.
IS THAT SO? WHY DON'T YOU DRINK SOME TEA?
NAH, TEA WON'T FILL ME UP. and it's bitter
THEN HAVE SOME LEFTOVER WAGASHI
BUT I DON'T WANNA EAT SOMETHING SWEET
SALTY SNACKS WOULD BE GOOD. LIKE POTATO CHIPS.


GOING HOME?
Click
POTATO CHIPS! I WANNA EAT POTATO CHIPS!
.....
AH, I WANNA EAT IT!
KEN-CHAN
YOU STARTLED ME AND WHY AREN'T YOU HOME YET? IT'S LATE
DO YOU DISLIKE THE IDEA OF MARRYING INTO OUR FAMILY THAT MUCH?

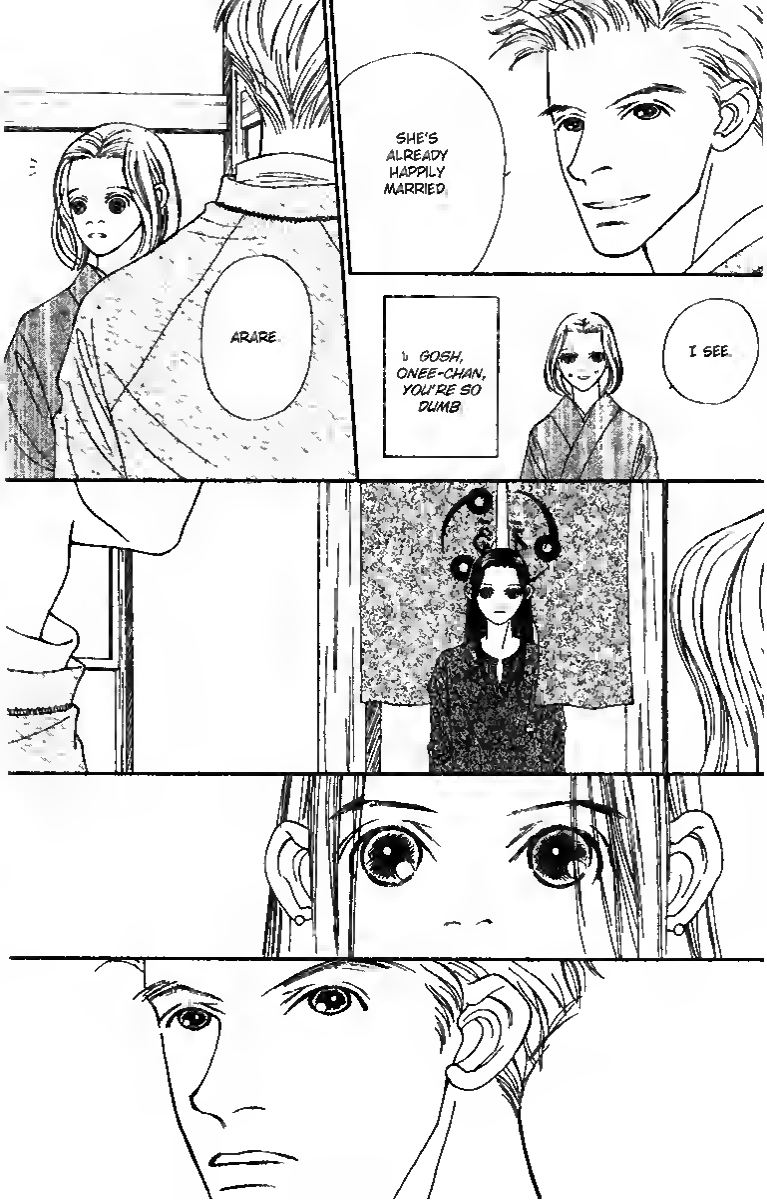
WE HAVE BEEN POLAR OPPOSITES SINCE WE WERE YOUNG. BOTH OF US ARE PROUD IN OUR OWN WAY.
TO HEAR ARARE SAYING THAT IN FRONT OF ME WAS...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR ARARE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HER FALSE HOPE
OR DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND LATER?
KEN-CHAN YOU DO LIKE ARARE, DON'T YOU?
NOT YOU TOO
I KNOW IT'S BETWEEN YOU AND ARARE
BUT LEAVING THINGS UNRESOLVED LIKE THIS, I FEEL SORRY FOR ARARE
DAMN HOW I ENVY ONEE-CHAN
.....
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU.


WILL THAT UPSET YOU AT ALL, KEN-CHAN?
OR WILL YOU FEEL RELIEVED TO GET RID OF THE BURDEN?
IF YOU KEEP GIVING HER THE COLD SHOULDER, WHAT IF ONE DAY ARARE CHANGES HER MIND,
AND GOES OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
IF THAT HAPPENS...
KEN-CHAN! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HAPPY ARARE WOULD BE IF YOU SAID THAT IN FRONT OF HER?
.....
IT'LL BREAK MY HEART.

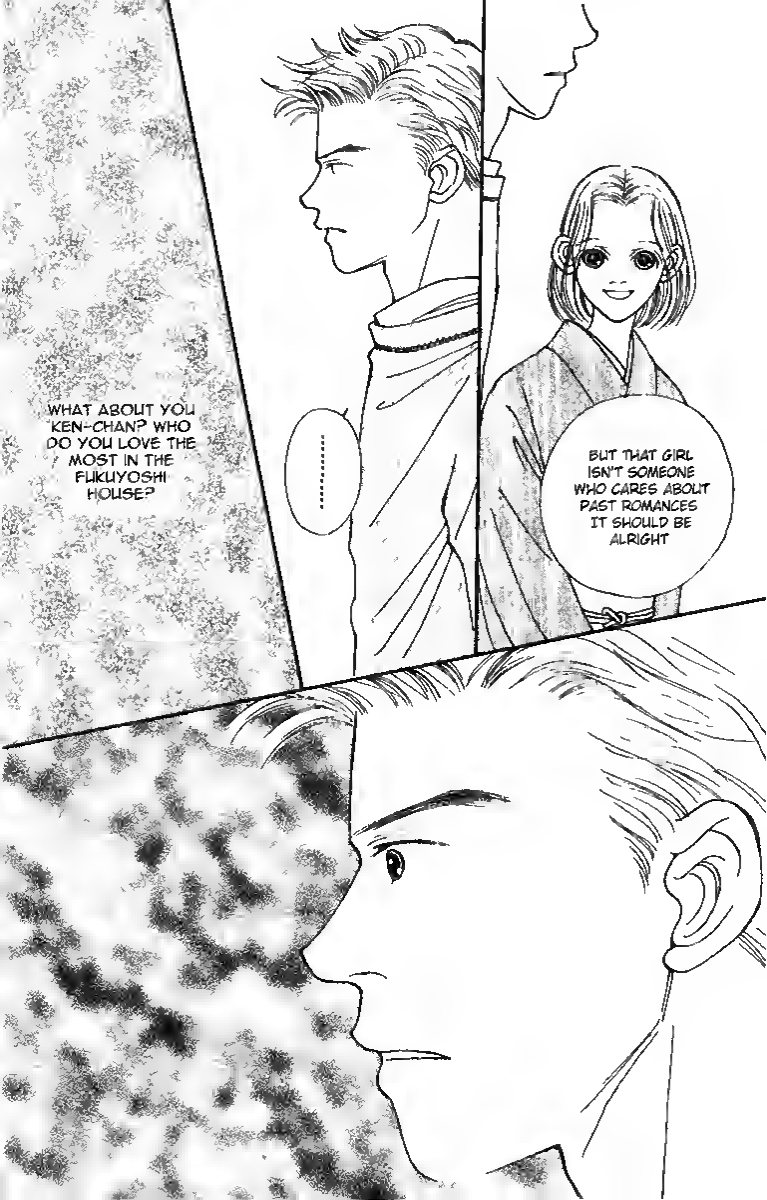
I WONDER WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES.
IT'S DEFINITELY THE MATTER OF MARRYING INTO OUR FAMILY, OR ELSE.
AH
I KNOW! YOU'RE A MAN WHO CAN'T COMMIT!
WHAT?
THERE ARE MEN LIKE THAT!
MEN WHO ARE AFRAID TO SETTLE DOWN AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE GUYS, KEN-CHAN?
PLEASE, CAN WE STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS?
WHY CAN'T WE?
COME ON, KEN-CHAN. HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO MARRY HER?

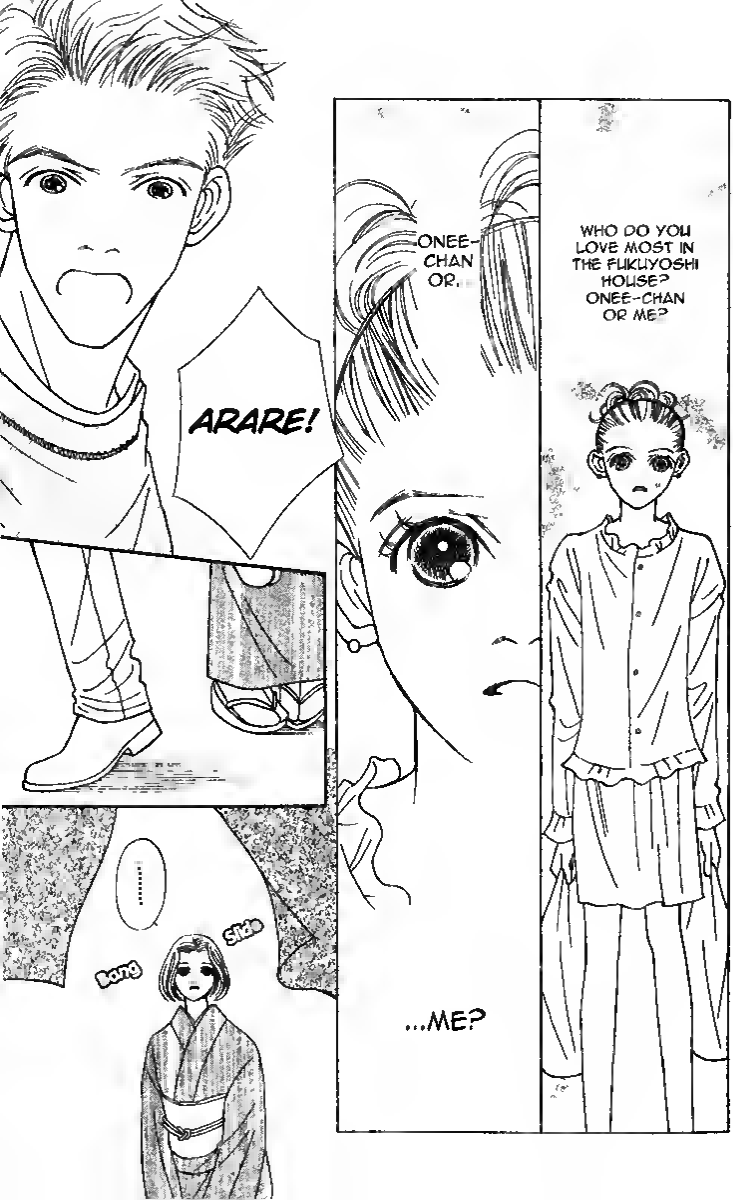
BUT I NEVER WANTED TO MARRY HER
ACTUALLY THERE WAS ONE PERSON
WHEN? IN HIGH SCHOOL?
IT'S NATURAL THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK OF MARRIAGE AT THAT AGE
OR WAS IT WHEN YOU WERE IN COLLEGE FOR A YEAR AND HAD TO DROP OUT?
THEN IT'S AFTER YOU CAME HERE?
IT'S ALREADY IN THE PAST
CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT THAT?
NO, NOT IN THE LEAST
THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO MARRY HER?
WAS IT BECAUSE YOU KNEW YOU HAD NO CHANCE?
HOW SURPRISING! I HAD NO IDEA HE HAD SOMEONE LIKE THAT
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE? WAS SHE LIKE ARARE?
ACTUALLY IT WASN'T LIKE I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE
THEN WHY?

I NEVER TOLD HER MY FEELINGS.
AND I KNEW SHE DIDN'T DESIRE A FUTURE WITH ME.
I DIDN'T WANT HER TO DO SOMETHING SHE DIDN'T WANT.
ALL I WANTED WAS FOR HER TO BE HAPPY WITH THE PATH THAT SHE CHOSE.
I DON'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S HER LOST FOR LETTING SOMEONE LIKE KEN-CHAN SLIP THROUGH HER FINGERS.
NOT AT ALL.
.....
IS THAT SO?


SHE'S ALREADY HAPPILY MARRIED.
ARARE.
♪ GOSH, ONEE-CHAN, YOU'RE SO DUMB.
I SEE.

I'M GOING OUT TO BUY POTATO CHIPS.
YOU SHOULD HURRY HOME, ONEE-CHAN.
BYE.
I LOST AT ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, SO I HAVE TO GO OUT AND BUY IT.
HANA KEEPS WAILING ABOUT IT. STRANGE GIRL.
SHE ALWAYS WANTS TO EAT STRANGE THINGS AT NIGHT. POTATO CHIPS, RAMEN, TAIYAKI, OR TAKOYAKI.
DID SHE HEAR OUR CONVERSATION JUST NOW?


WHAT ABOUT YOU KEN-CHAN? WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?
.....
BUT THAT GIRL ISN'T SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT PAST ROMANCES IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT


WHO DO YOU LOVE MOST IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE? ONEE-CHAN OR ME?
ONEE-CHAN OR...
...ME?
ARARE!
.....
bang
Slide

ARARE!
I'M SORRY.
I HURT YOUR FEELINGS

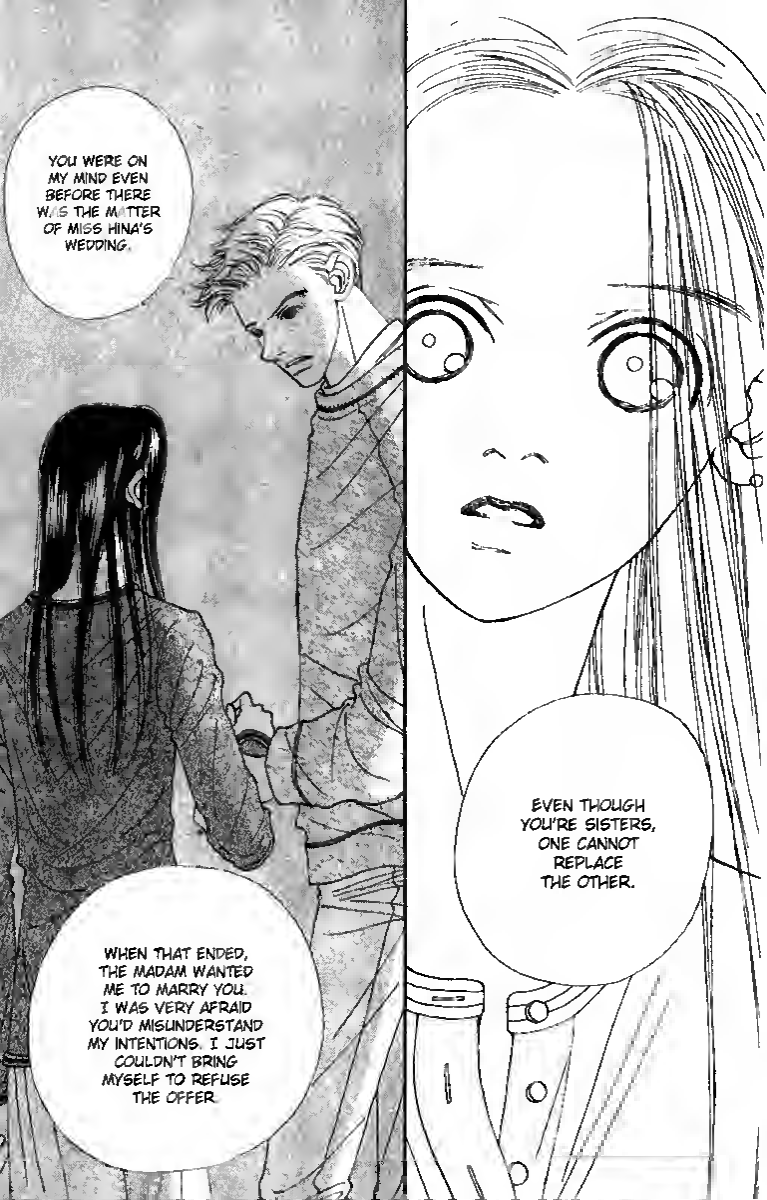
SINCE WHEN?
YOU CAN KEEP DENYING IT, BUT I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THAT YOU LOVED ONEE-CHAN.
BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY KNOWN, IT'S NOT THAT SHOCKING.
TO HEAR YOU SAY IT CLEARLY IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

SERIOUSLY, YOU COULD HAVE MARRIED ONEE-CHAN WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HER FEELINGS
BUT YOU KEPT HESITATING UNTIL HINOYAMA-SAN STEPPED IN
ONEE-CHAN TRUSTED YOU WITH ALL HER HEART, KEN-CHAN. IF YOU SAID YOU'D MARRY HER, YOU TWO WOULD BE MAKING A FAMILY BY NOW.
BUT BECAUSE YOU LOVE HER, YOU ALWAYS PUT HER FEELINGS FIRST AND FOREMOST SINCE THE START.
I WISH YOU HAD SPOKEN YOUR MIND. ONEE-CHAN WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED AND I WOULDN'T BE CONFUSED LIKE THIS.
ARARE, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. WHERE DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?
I DON'T KNOW. WHATEVER.
I'LL GO BUY THE POTATO CHIPS NOW.
AND...
I HEARD YOU MADE A PROMISE TO MY MOTHER.
FORGET ABOUT IT.

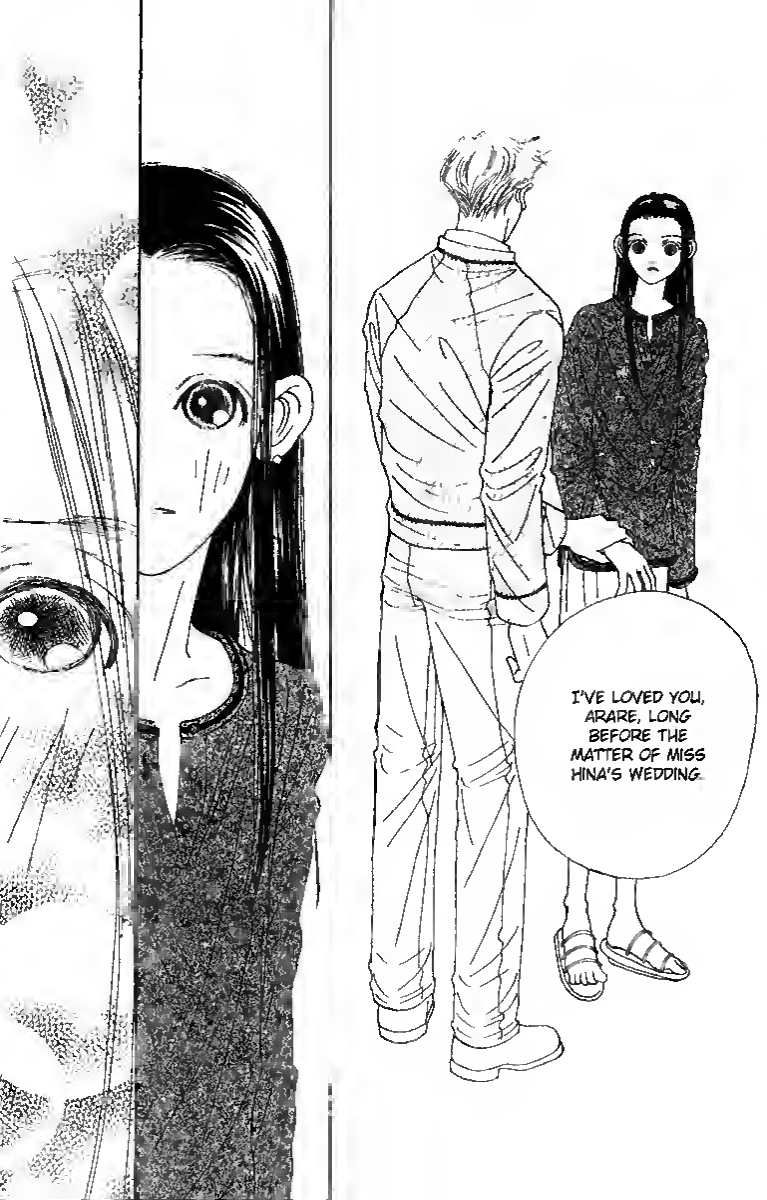
IT SUCKS THAT YOU HAVE TO FACE THE SAME SITUATION TWICE. I UNDERSTAND IT'S HARD TO REFUSE.
EVEN THOUGH I SAID WE SHOULD CLOSE FUKUYA FOR GOOD, IN THE END WE STILL PULLED YOU BACK INTO OUR MESS. WE, BOTH MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS HAVE BROUGHT YOU NOTHING BUT HEADACHES.
SORRY ABOUT THAT
DON'T WORRY I'LL TALK TO MOM
ARARE, WAIT! WE HAVEN'T FINISHED TALKING.
KEN-CHAN.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

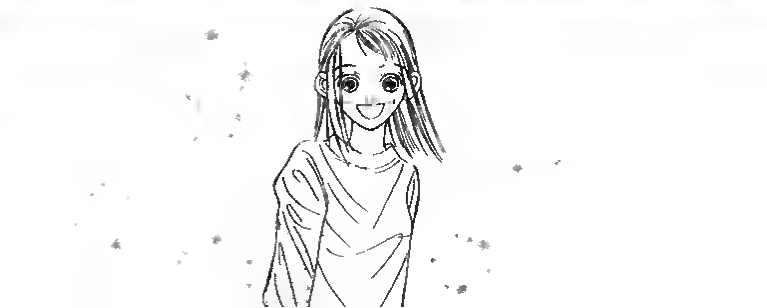
WAS THAT TO SET ONEE-CHAN FREE?
THE NIGHT ONEE-CHAN ANNOUNCED THAT SHE'D MARRY HINOYAMA-SAN,
YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME WITH THE SHOP...

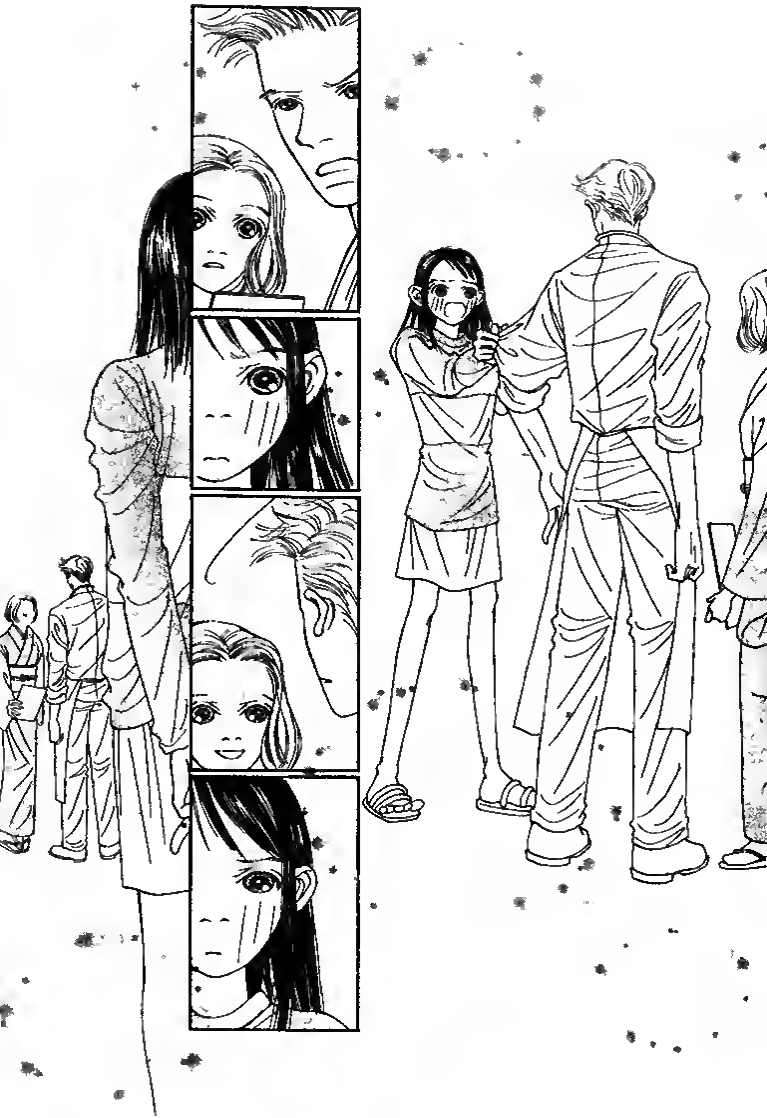
THAT TIME, EVEN WHEN YOU WERE STILL BAR-HOPPING,
I DIDN'T THINK OF MISS HINA THAT WAY ANYMORE
INSTEAD I THOUGHT THAT YOU HATED ME AND MY FEELINGS WOULD GO UNANSWERED. UNTIL THAT NIGHT...
NO!
I ONLY THOUGHT OF YOU, ARARE.
WHEN THE MADAM TRIED TO GET ME TO COMMIT WITH MISS HINA, I THOUGHT I WAS SCREWED.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE ANY HOPE WITH ARARE EVER AGAIN.

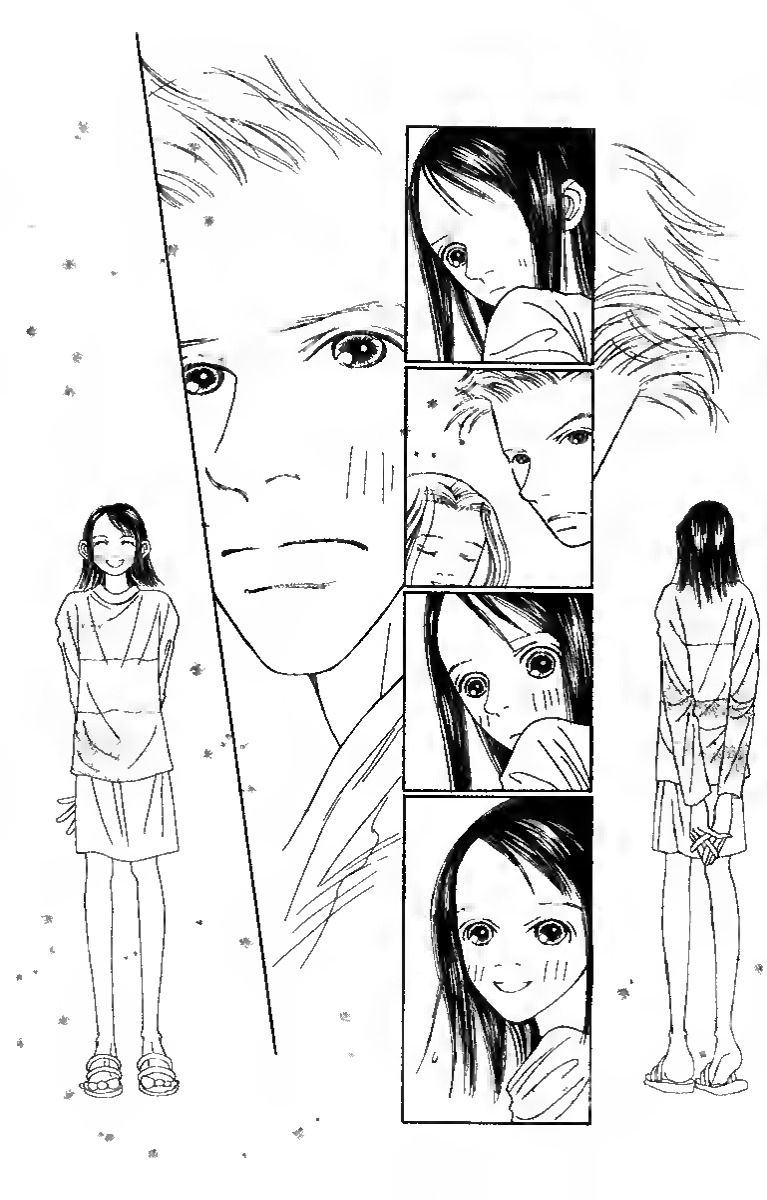

YOU WERE ON MY MIND EVEN BEFORE THERE WAS THE MATTER OF MISS HINA'S WEDDING.
WHEN THAT ENDED, THE MADAM WANTED ME TO MARRY YOU. I WAS VERY AFRAID YOU'D MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS. I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO REFUSE THE OFFER.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SISTERS, ONE CANNOT REPLACE THE OTHER.

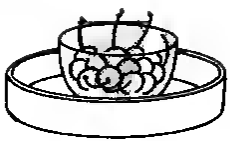
THEN WHY WERE YOU SO COLD WITH ME?
EVEN TODAY, YOU ACTED LIKE I WAS A NUISANCE
ARARE, I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT CLEARLY
IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO ANSWER YOUR FEELINGS
BUT THE MADAM IS KEEPING TABS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE IT'LL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE SHOP'S FUTURE
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR TODAY
HONESTLY, I STILL HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION ABOUT THE SHOP.
FOR SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT, I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE.


I'VE LOVED YOU, ARARE, LONG BEFORE THE MATTER OF MISS HINA'S WEDDING.









Taiyaki
Japanese fish-shaped cake. The most common filling is red bean paste. Other common fillings may be custard, chocolate, or cheese. Taiyaki is made using regular pancake or waffle batter. The batter is poured into a fish shaped mold for each side. The filling is then put on one side and the mold is closed. It is then cooked on both sides until golden brown.
五味誠実
Fukuyadon Honpo
by YUCHI Yayomi
WuxiaWorld.com
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Quality checked by : Kiltmonian

Extra

Maki-e is Japanese lacquer sprinkled with gold or silver powder as a decoration. Maki-e objects were adopted by noble families and military leaders as an indication of rank, power, and privilege.

Seiami = A leading Japanese craftsman of the Muromachi period (1338-1573)

Rikkansai = The "religious name" of the 6th generation head of the Uransenke family. The Uransenke is one of THE main schools of sado (tea ceremony) of Japan.

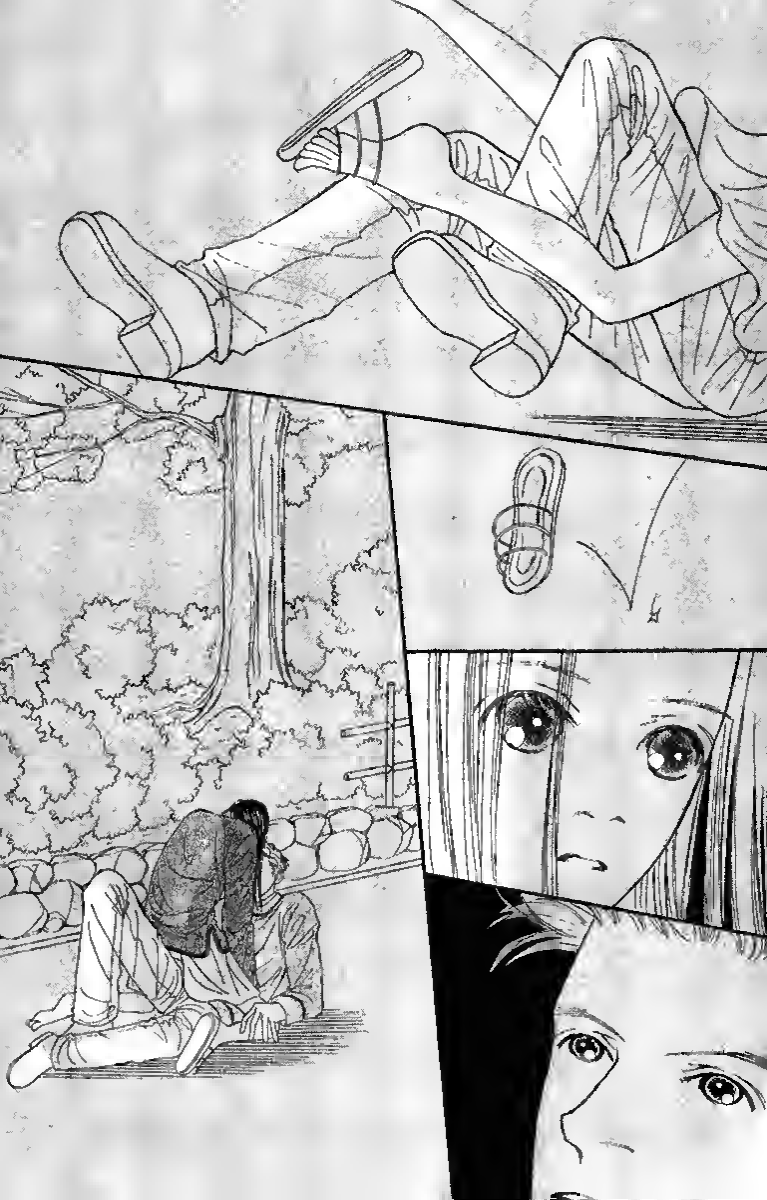
Nonkou's Shikishima red raku tea bowl : Nonkou refers to Dounyuu - a 3rd generation potter of the 17th century. He's credited for creating crimson raku tea bowls - which are incredibly famous.

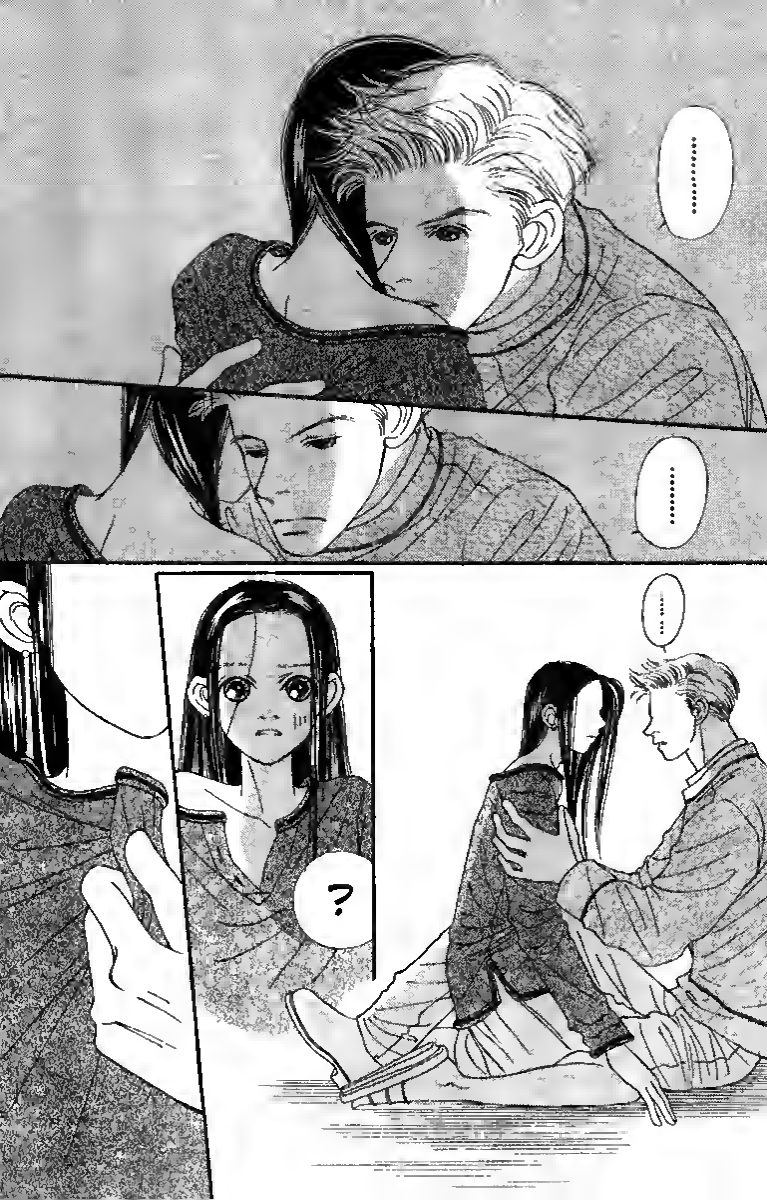
Shikishima is a "pillow word" for "yamato" - the "pillow word" for "Japan" or "the essence of Japanese/Japan."

Photo credits: Wikipedia and New York University/Urasenke Chanoyu Center

FukuyaDouHonpo

福家堂本舗





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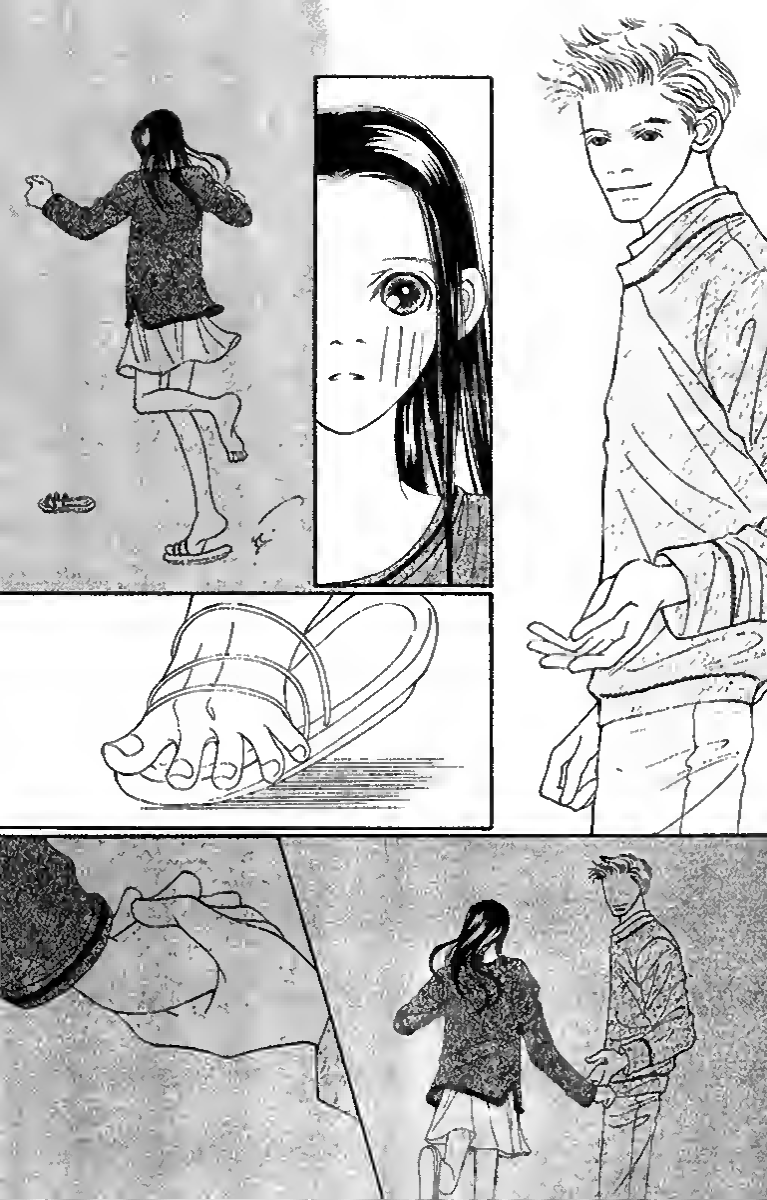
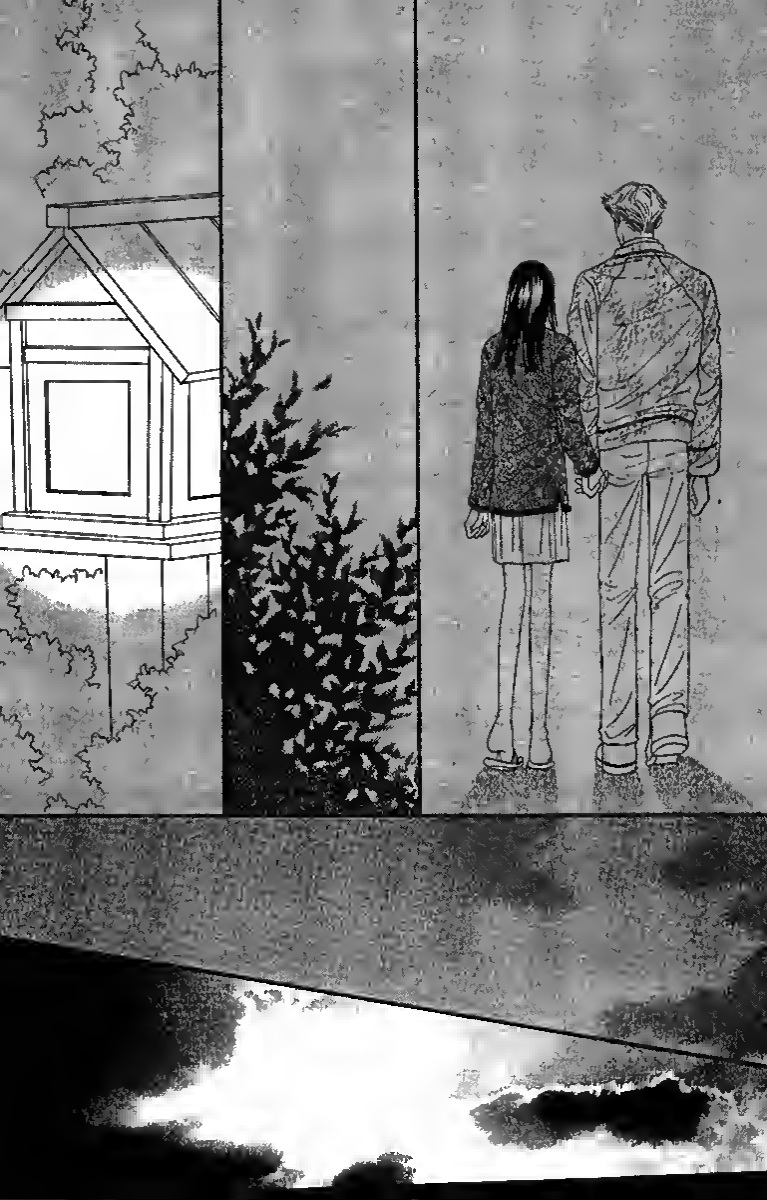
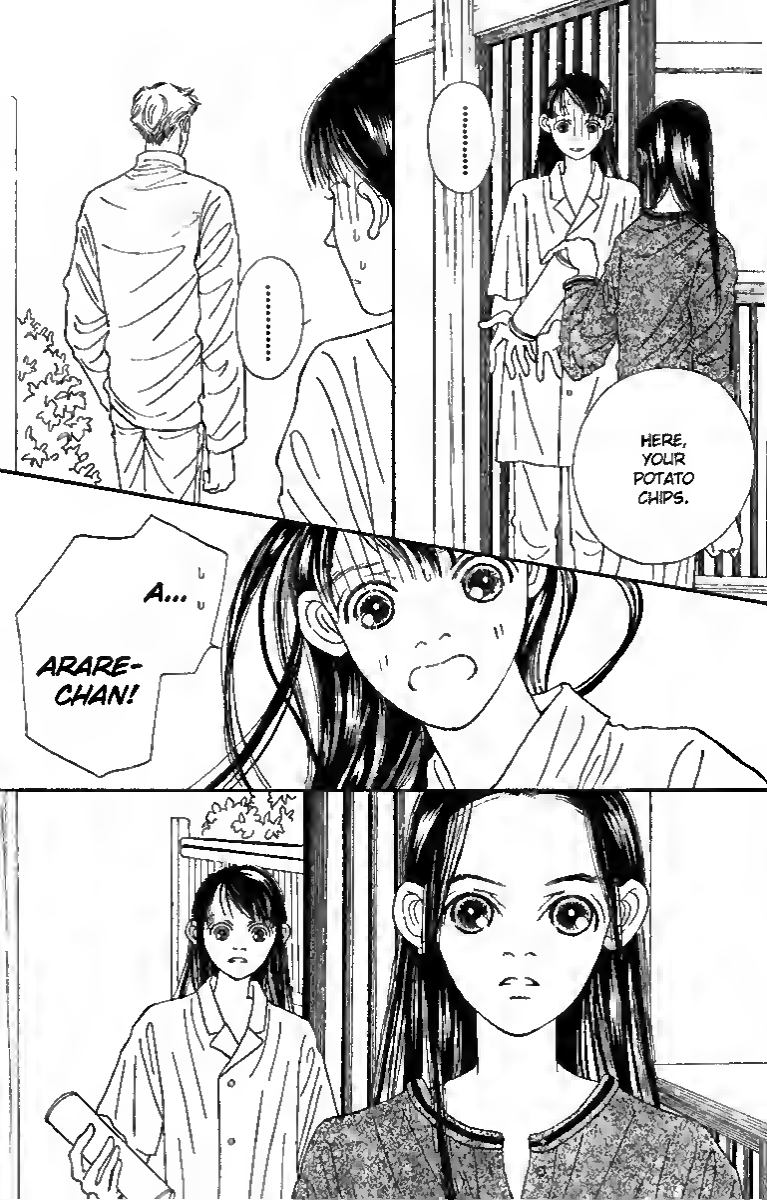


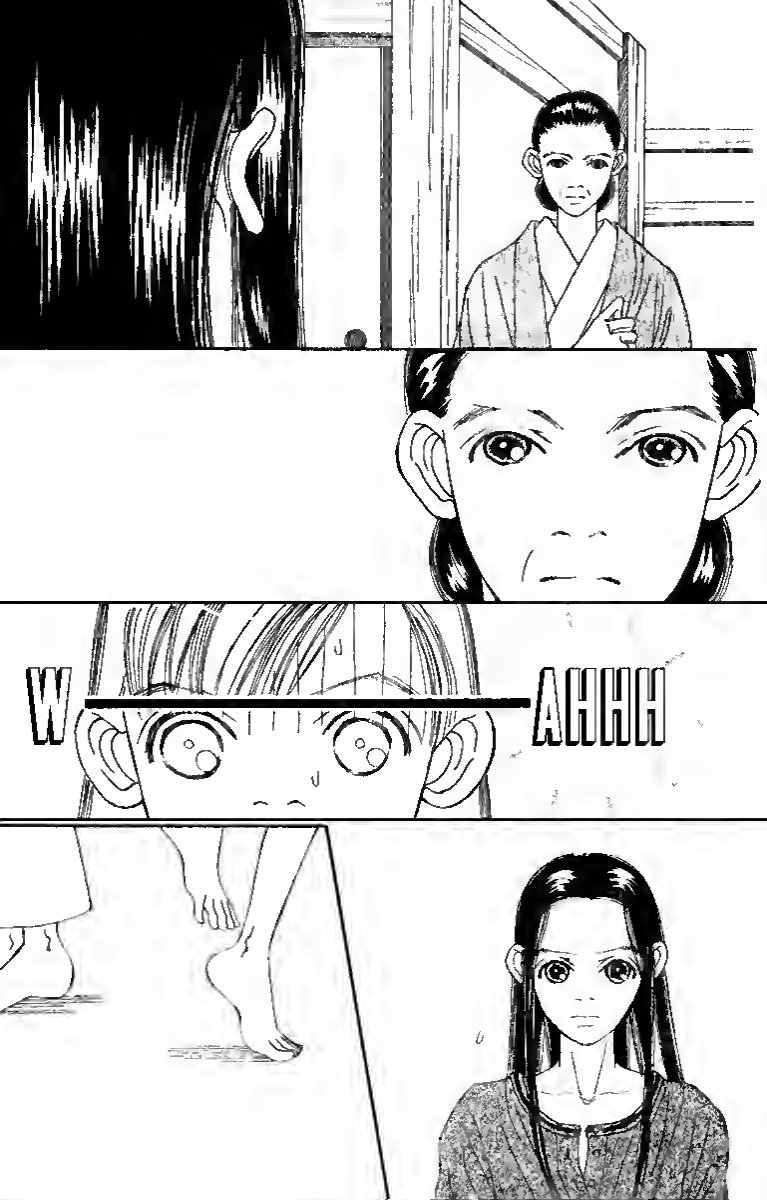


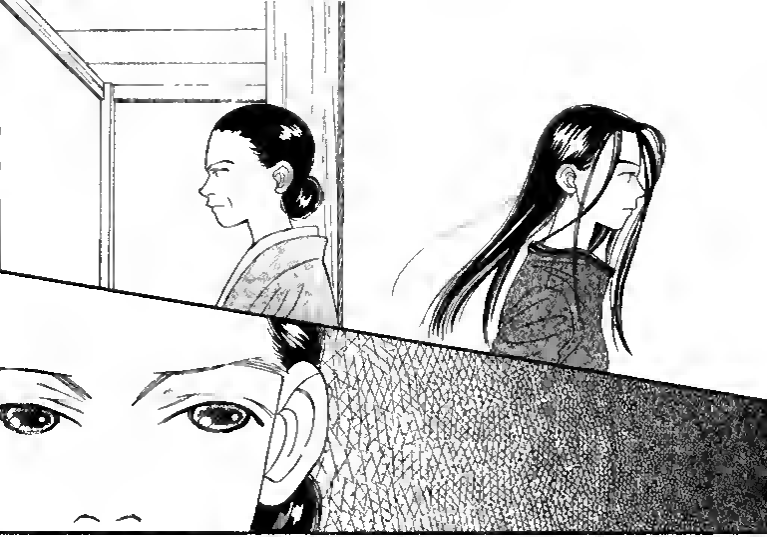
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
NGHH...
.....
ARARE-CHAN,
WHERE DID YOU GO TO BUY POTATO CHIPS?

SHE REALLY HASN'T COME BACK.
THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED, TOO
.....
BUT SHE STOPPED CLUBBING...
SHE MUST HAVE MET SHIN-SAN OR MASAMI-SAN ON THE WAY.

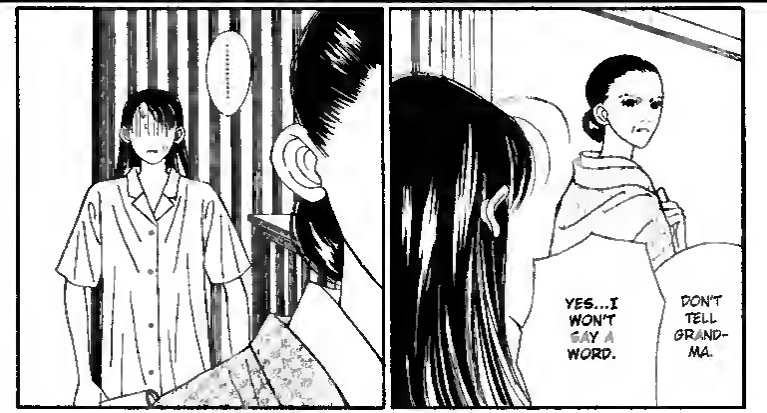
I... I'M BACK.
ARARE-CHAN, YOU'RE BACK
G-G-GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING.
EH? WH-WHAT'S THIS?

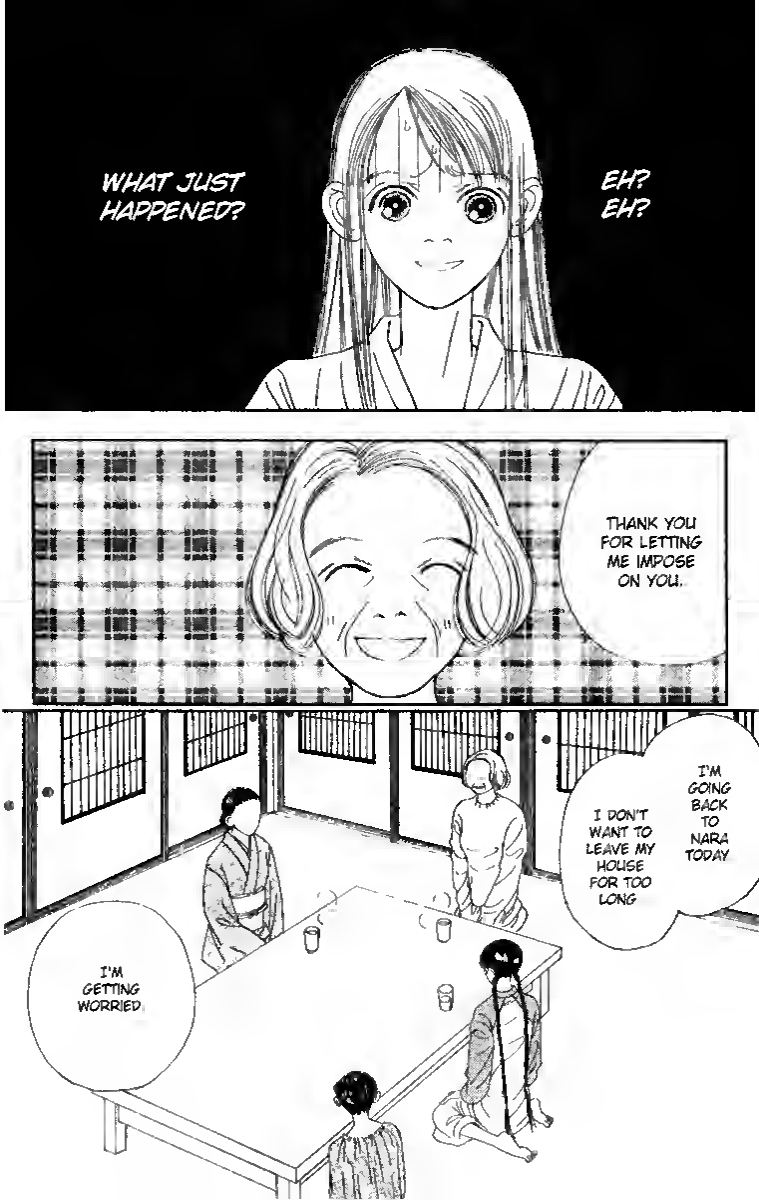

.....
.....
HERE, YOUR POTATO CHIPS.
A...
ARARE-CHAN!

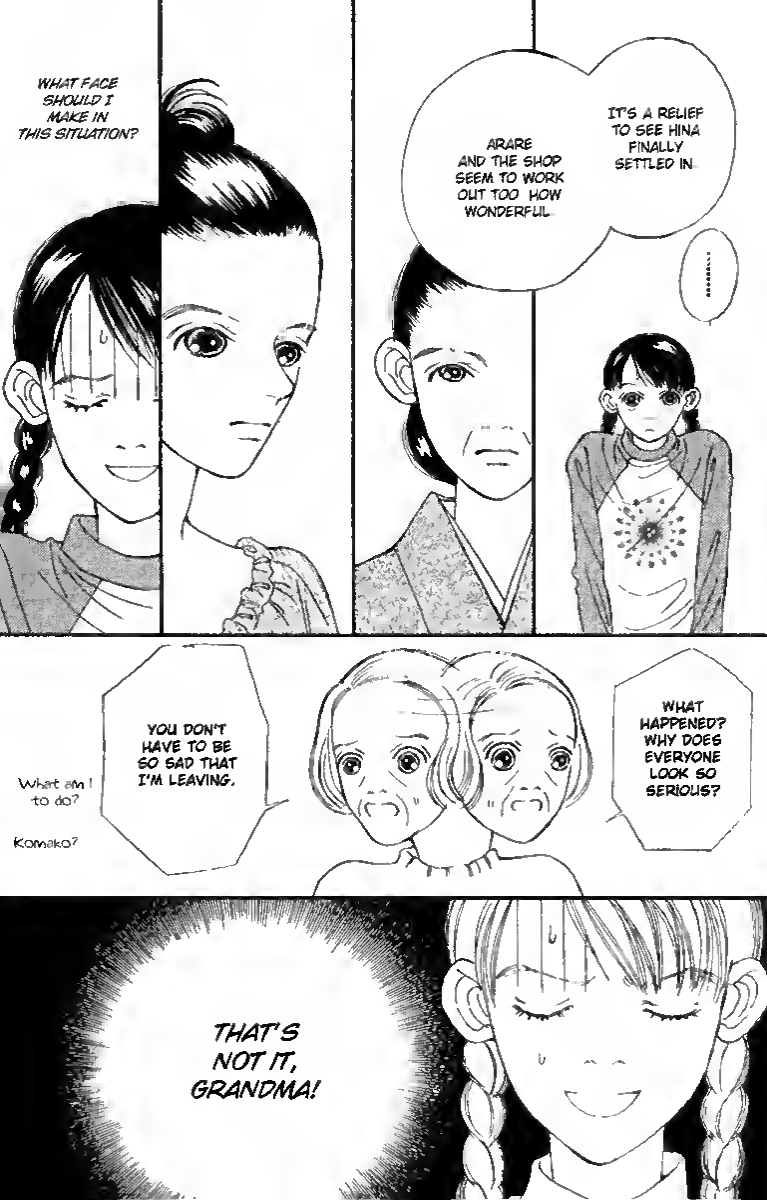

W
AHHH

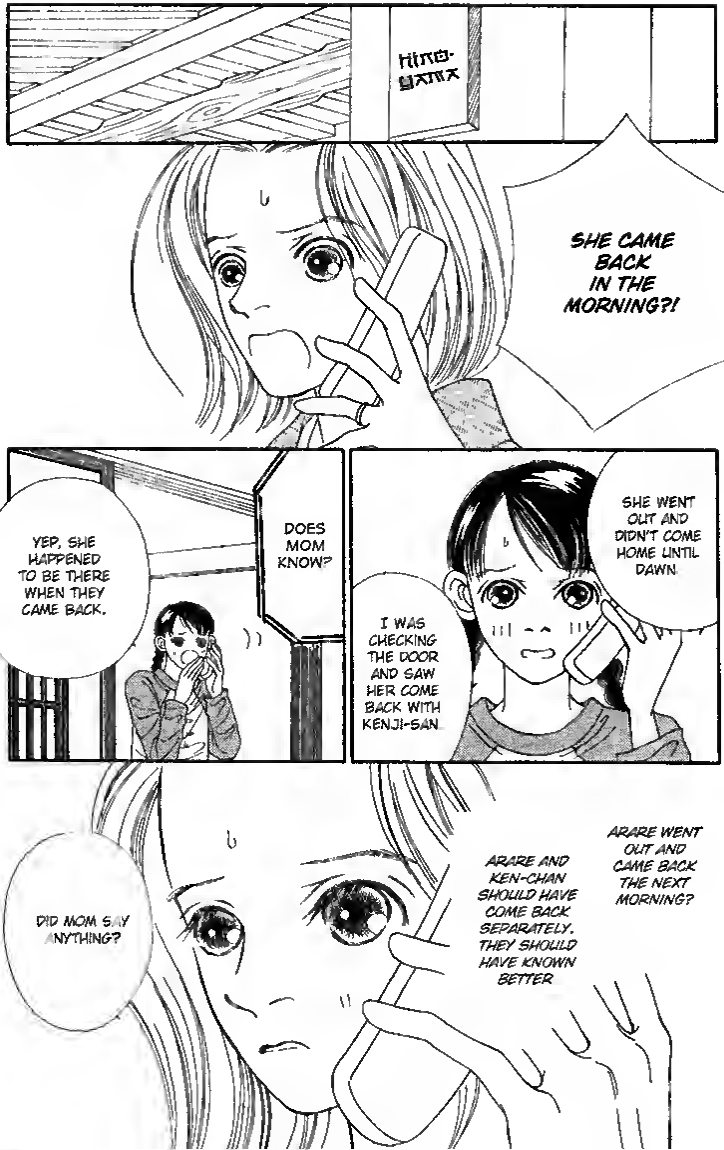


HANA.
YES.

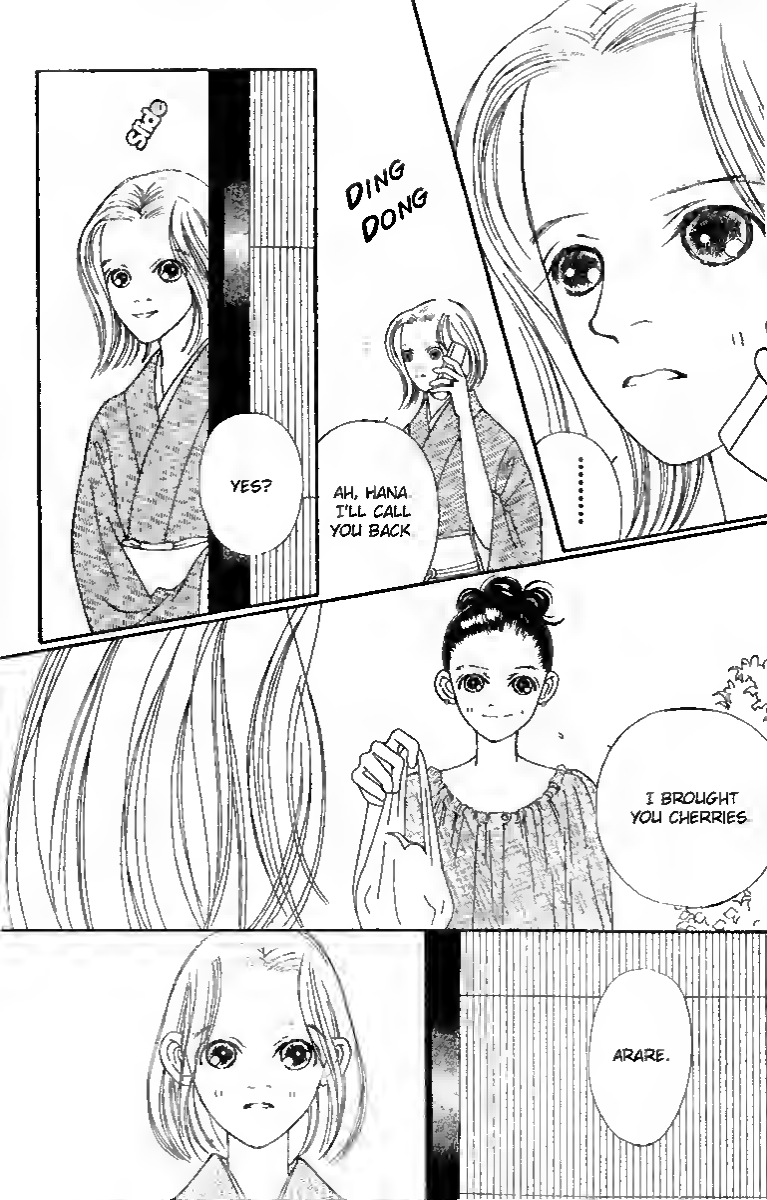

.....
YES...I WON'T SAY A WORD.
DON'T TELL GRAND-MA.

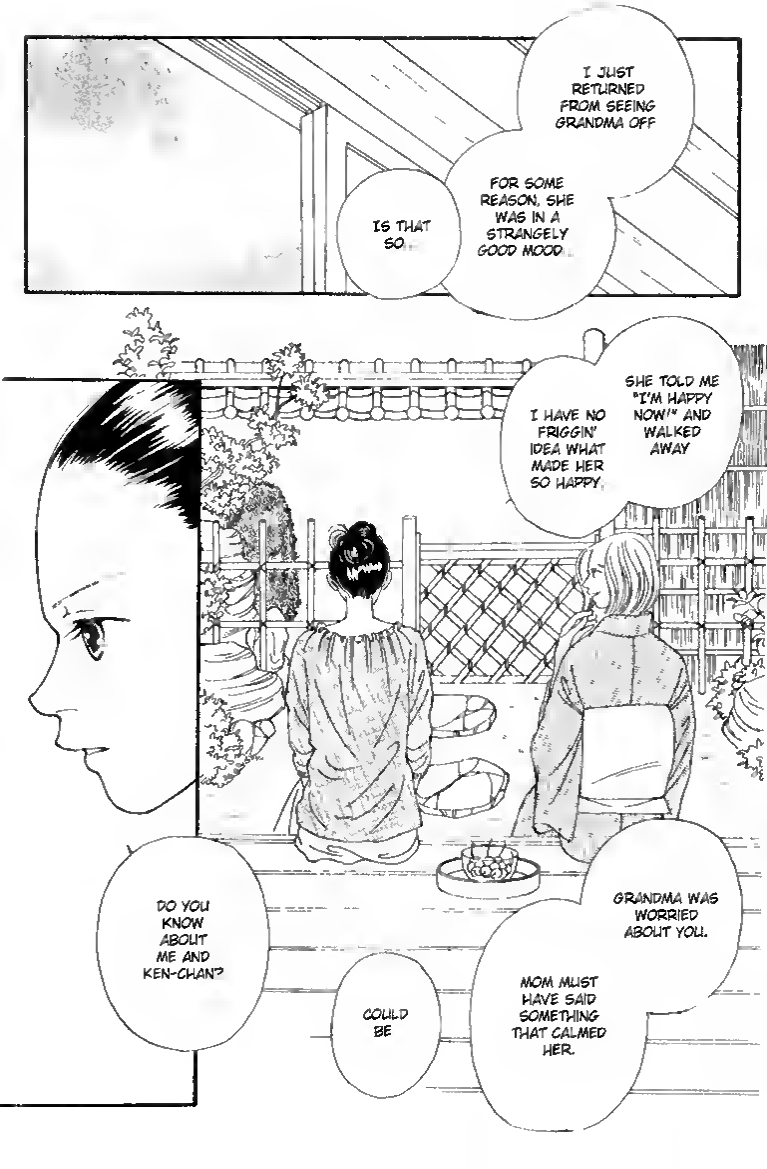

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
EH? EH?
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME IMPOSE ON YOU.
I'M GOING BACK TO NARA TODAY
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE MY HOUSE FOR TOO LONG
I'M GETTING WORRIED.

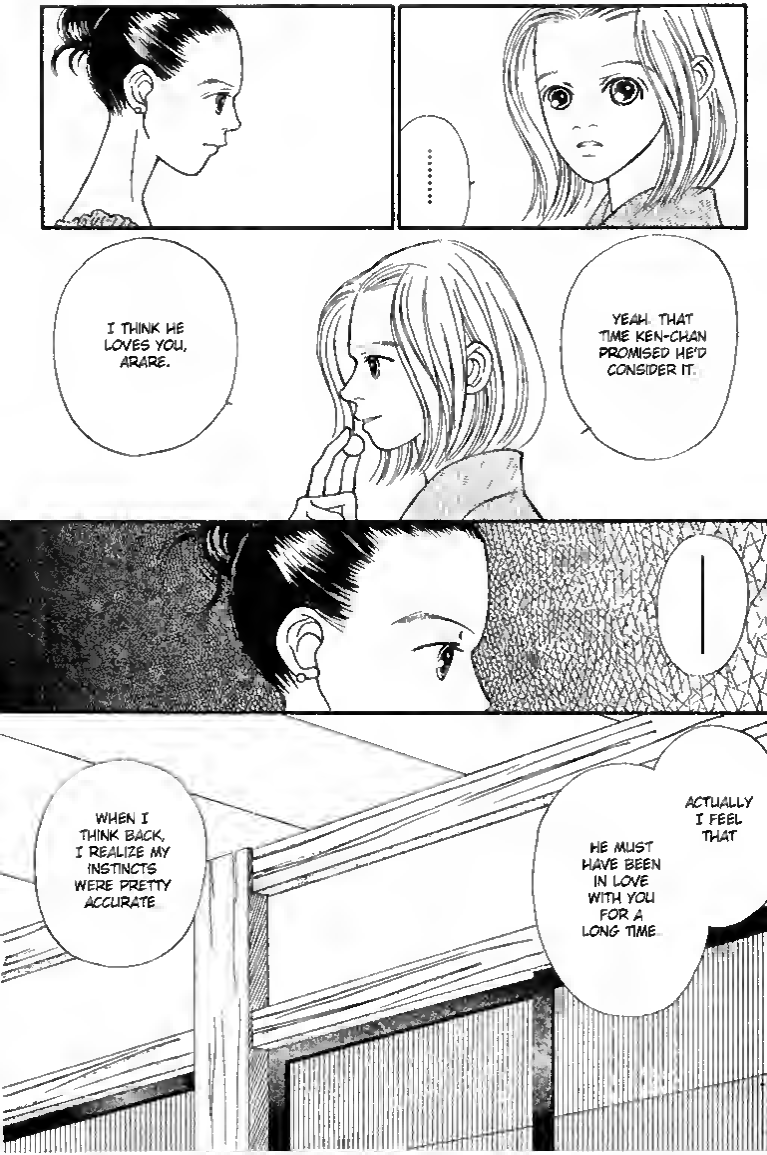

WHAT FACE SHOULD I MAKE IN THIS SITUATION?
ARARE AND THE SHOP SEEM TO WORK OUT TOO. HOW WONDERFUL.
IT'S A RELIEF TO SEE HINA FINALLY SETTLED IN.
.....
What am I to do?
Komako?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO SAD THAT I'M LEAVING.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DOES EVERYONE LOOK SO SERIOUS?
THAT'S NOT IT, GRANDMA!


SHE CAME BACK IN THE MORNING?!
SHE WENT OUT AND DIDN'T COME HOME UNTIL DAWN.
I WAS CHECKING THE DOOR AND SAW HER COME BACK WITH KENJI-SAN.
DOES MOM KNOW?
YEP, SHE HAPPENED TO BE THERE WHEN THEY CAME BACK.
ARARE WENT OUT AND CAME BACK THE NEXT MORNING?
ARARE AND KEN-CHAN SHOULD HAVE COME BACK SEPARATELY. THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER
DID MOM SAY ANYTHING?

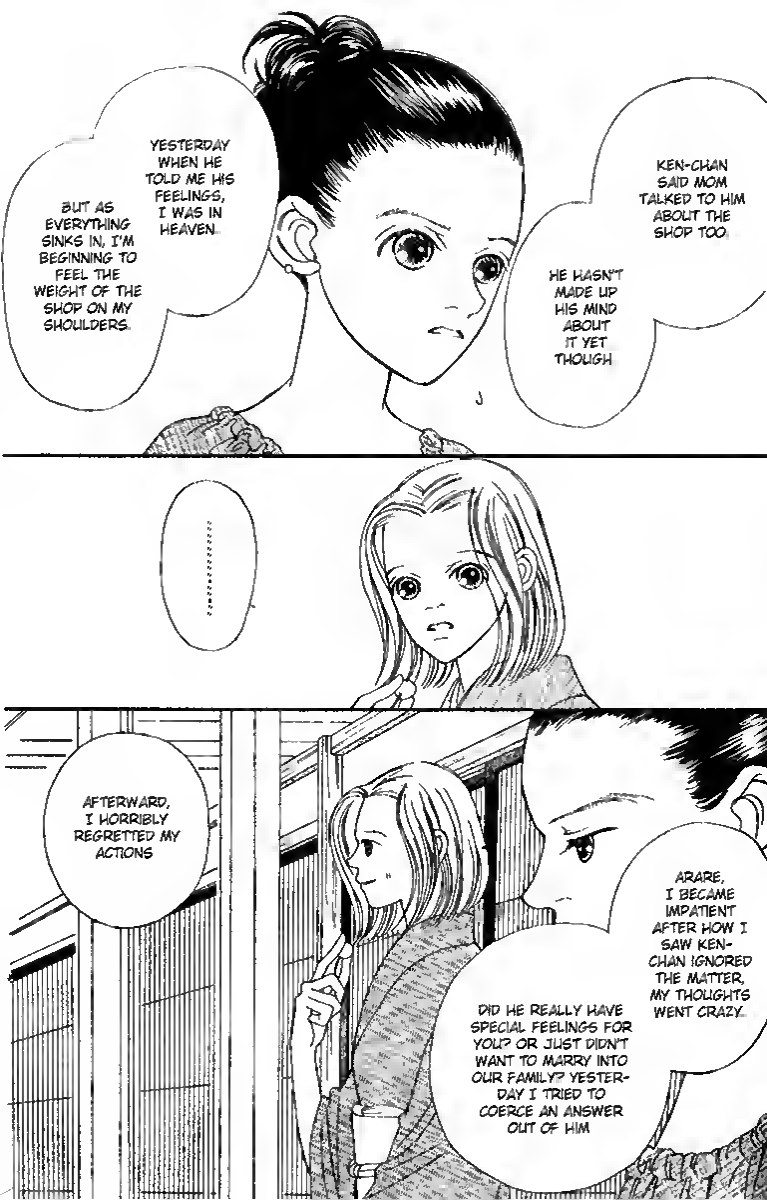
BUT BOTH KENJI-SAN AND ARARE SEEM STRANGE
STRANGE?
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE ANGRY- FURIOUS EVEN. BUT SHE TURNED A BLIND EYE AND ACTED LIKE IT WAS NORMAL.
THAT'S THE MOST SURPRISING PART OF ALL. SHE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
THAT WAS SCARIER
I SEE. WHAT ABOUT ARARE?
SHE WENT TO SEE GRANDMA OFF AT THE TRAIN STATION.
THEY'RE AVOIDING EACH OTHER. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED
BUT TODAY THEY DIDN'T LOOK AT EACH OTHER, LET ALONE TALK
THEY RAN INTO EACH A LOT, AS USUAL

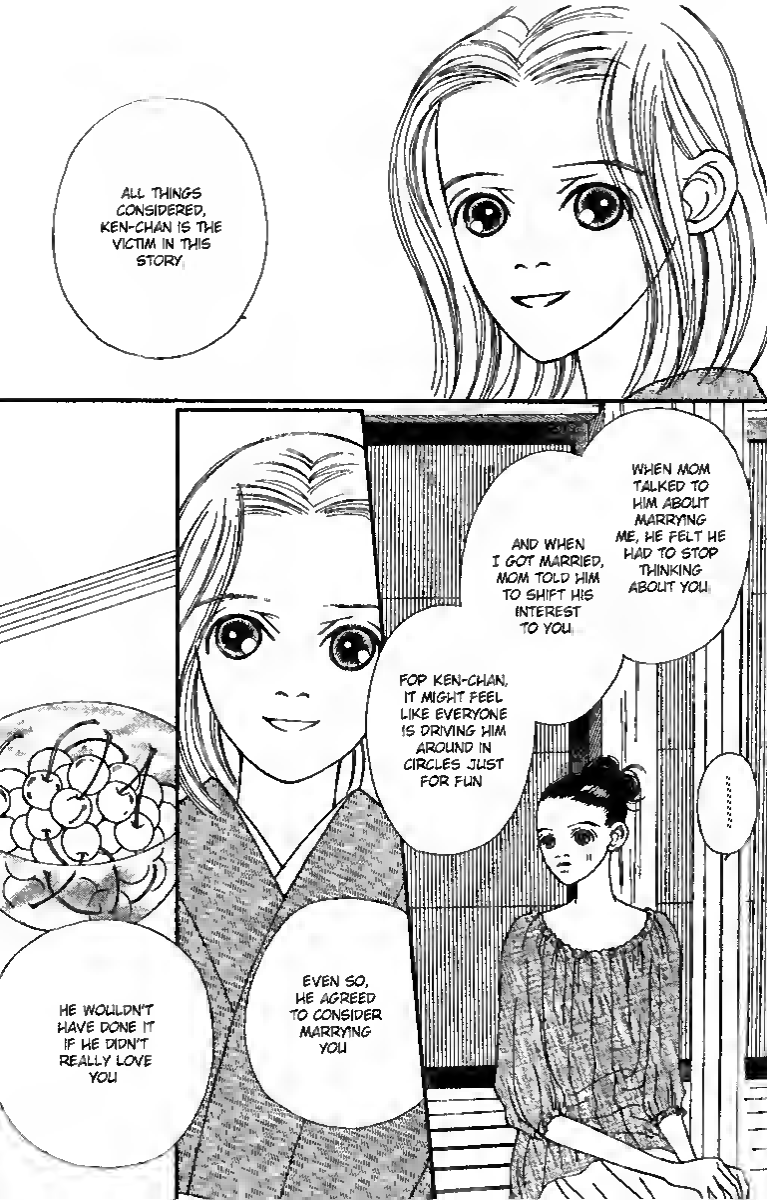

CHIRP
DING DONG
YES?
AH, HANA. I'LL CALL YOU BACK
.....
I BROUGHT YOU CHERRIES
ARARE.


I JUST RETURNED FROM SEEING GRANDMA OFF
FOR SOME REASON, SHE WAS IN A STRANGELY GOOD MOOD.
IS THAT SO.
SHE TOLD ME "I'M HAPPY NOW!" AND WALKED AWAY
I HAVE NO FRIGGIN' IDEA WHAT MADE HER SO HAPPY.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME AND KEN-CHAN?
COULD BE
MOM MUST HAVE SAID SOMETHING THAT CALMED HER.
GRANDMA WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

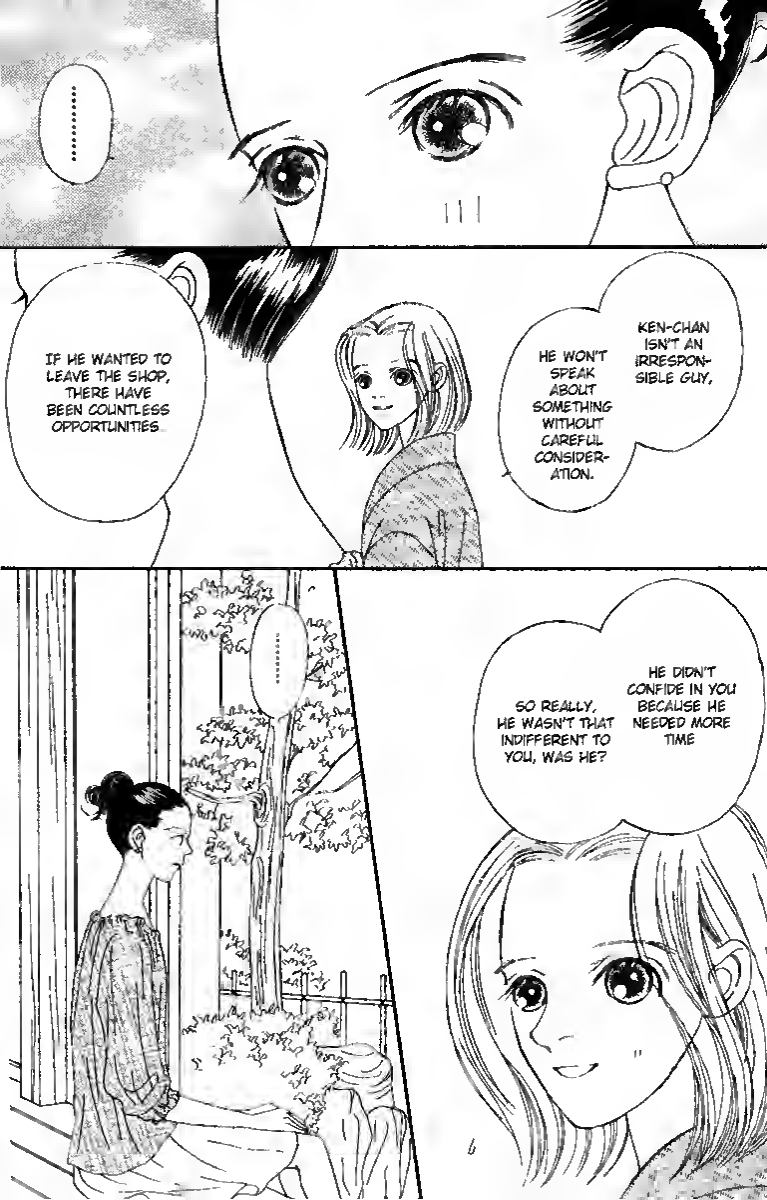

.....
I THINK HE LOVES YOU, ARARE.
YEAH. THAT TIME KEN-CHAN PROMISED HE'D CONSIDER IT.
WHEN I THINK BACK, I REALIZE MY INSTINCTS WERE PRETTY ACCURATE
ACTUALLY I FEEL THAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

WHEN MOM CALLED ME AND KEN-CHAN IN TO DISCUSS ABOUT OUR FUTURE, KEN-CHAN LOOKED VERY UNCOMFORTABLE
IN THAT MOMENT, I WAS THINKING "HE DOESN'T HAVE TO MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT." IT MADE ME FEEL AWFUL
BUT LATER I FIGURED THAT IT'S ONLY NATURAL IF HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU, ARARE
KEN-CHAN HAS IT TOUGH
THE MINUTE HE WAS FREE FROM THE OLDER SISTER, PEOPLE EXPECTED HIM TO MARRY THE YOUNGER ONE
WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BECOMING THE SUCCESSOR?
ALWAYS
BUT YOUR WORDS AND THE WAY YOU BEHAVED AT THAT TIME SPURRED ME INTO MAKING A DECISION
WAS I REALLY THAT BAD?
I'M SORRY
YOU SURE WERE. BUT IT'S ALL GOOD NOW
.....


KEN-CHAN SAID MOM TALKED TO HIM ABOUT THE SHOP TOO.
HE HASN'T MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT IT YET THOUGH.
YESTERDAY WHEN HE TOLD ME HIS FEELINGS, I WAS IN HEAVEN.
BUT AS EVERYTHING SINKS IN, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE SHOP ON MY SHOULDERS.
.....
ARARE, I BECAME IMPATIENT AFTER HOW I SAW KEN-CHAN IGNORED THE MATTER, MY THOUGHTS WENT CRAZY.
DID HE REALLY HAVE SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR YOU? OR JUST DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY INTO OUR FAMILY? YESTERDAY I TRIED TO COERCE AN ANSWER OUT OF HIM
AFTERWARD, I HORRIBLY REGRETTED MY ACTIONS

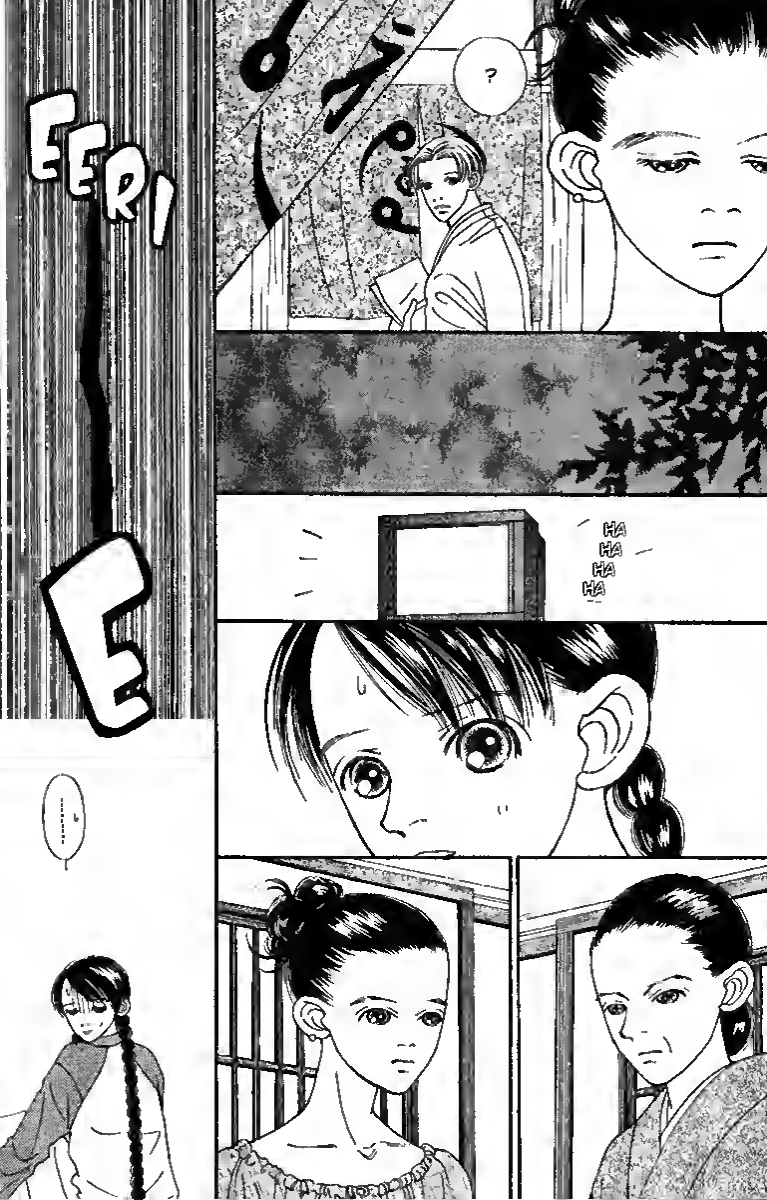

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, KEN-CHAN IS THE VICTIM IN THIS STORY.
WHEN MOM TALKED TO HIM ABOUT MARRYING ME, HE FELT HE HAD TO STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
AND WHEN I GOT MARRIED, MOM TOLD HIM TO SHIFT HIS INTEREST TO YOU.
FOR KEN-CHAN, IT MIGHT FEEL LIKE EVERYONE IS DRIVING HIM AROUND IN CIRCLES JUST FOR FUN
.....
EVEN SO, HE AGREED TO CONSIDER MARRYING YOU.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IF HE DIDN'T REALLY LOVE YOU.

AS A NON-NATIVE, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT HE'D BE VERY RELUCTANT TO SUCCEED AN ANCIENT KYOTO SHOP.
BOTH THE MATTER ABOUT YOU AND THE SHOP AREN'T TRIVIAL. I UNDERSTAND THAT HE NEEDED TIME TO THINK.
BUT EVERYONE AROUND HIM KEEPS PESTERING HIM FOR AN ANSWER WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HIS FEELINGS.
WHAT A TERRIBLE PERSON I AM
MY CARELESS WORDS SOUNDED RUDE AND HARSH
TO SOMEONE WHO IS GIVING THE FUTURE OF OUR SHOP AND MY SISTER SUCH DISCREET CONSIDERATION,


.....
IF HE WANTED TO LEAVE THE SHOP, THERE HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES.
HE WON'T SPEAK ABOUT SOMETHING WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDER-ATION.
KEN-CHAN ISN'T AN IRRESPON-SIBLE GUY,
.....
SO REALLY, HE WASN'T THAT INDIFFERENT TO YOU, WAS HE?
HE DIDN'T CONFIDE IN YOU BECAUSE HE NEEDED MORE TIME

YOU'RE BACK
I'M BACK
Slide
THE WEATHER SUDDENLY GOT HOTTER SINCE JUNE BEGAN
YEAH, SUMMER HAS ARRIVED.
50 BOXES (AM DELIVERY)
MIYASAKO LEFT EARLY
THE SHRINE'S ORDER
MIYASAKO'S DAY OFF

SUGI-KUN, KEN-CHAN LEFT EARLY TODAY?
YES. HE LEFT AFTER SEI-OJISAN CLOCKED IN THIS MORNING.
AND HE'S TAKING TOMORROW OFF, TOO?
SEEMS SO.
IS HE SICK OR SOMETHING?
HE LOOKED FINE TO ME
IF HE'S ALRIGHT, THEN IT'S FINE.
MAYBE SEI-OJISAN KNOWS MORE ABOUT IT, SHOULD I ASK HIM FOR YOU?
NEVERMIND.

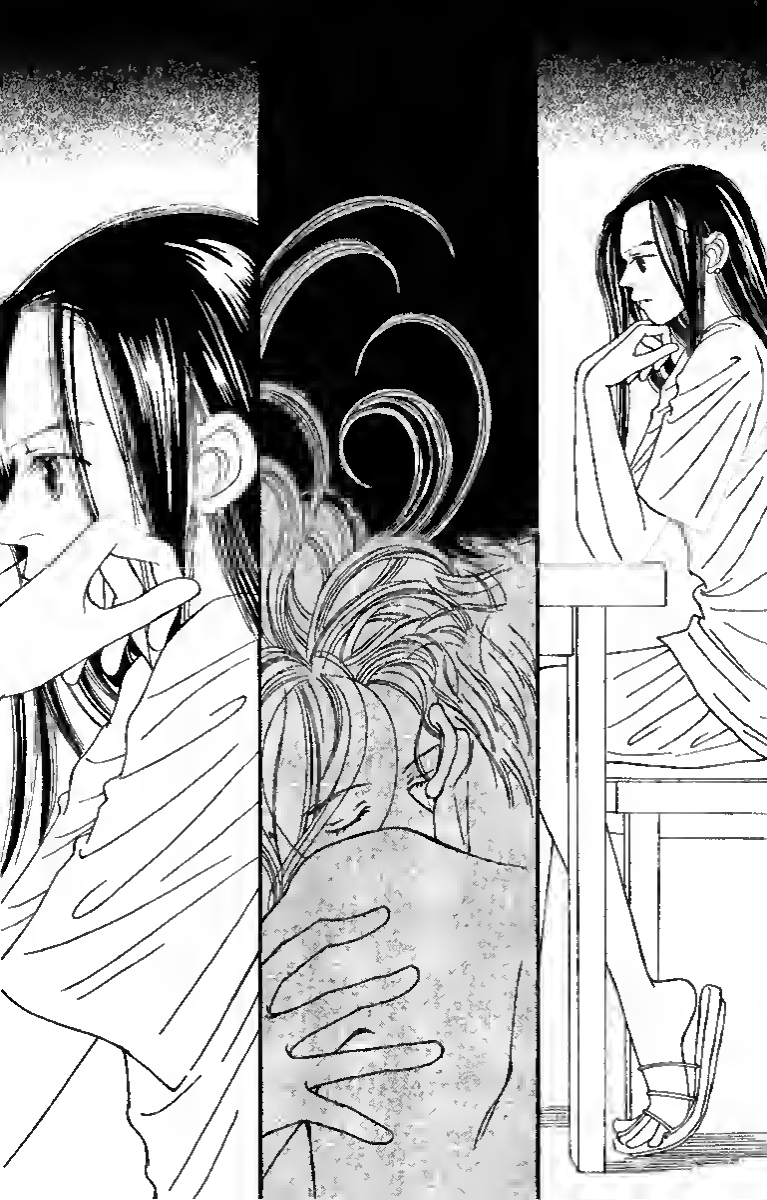

EERI
E
?
HA
HA
HA
HA

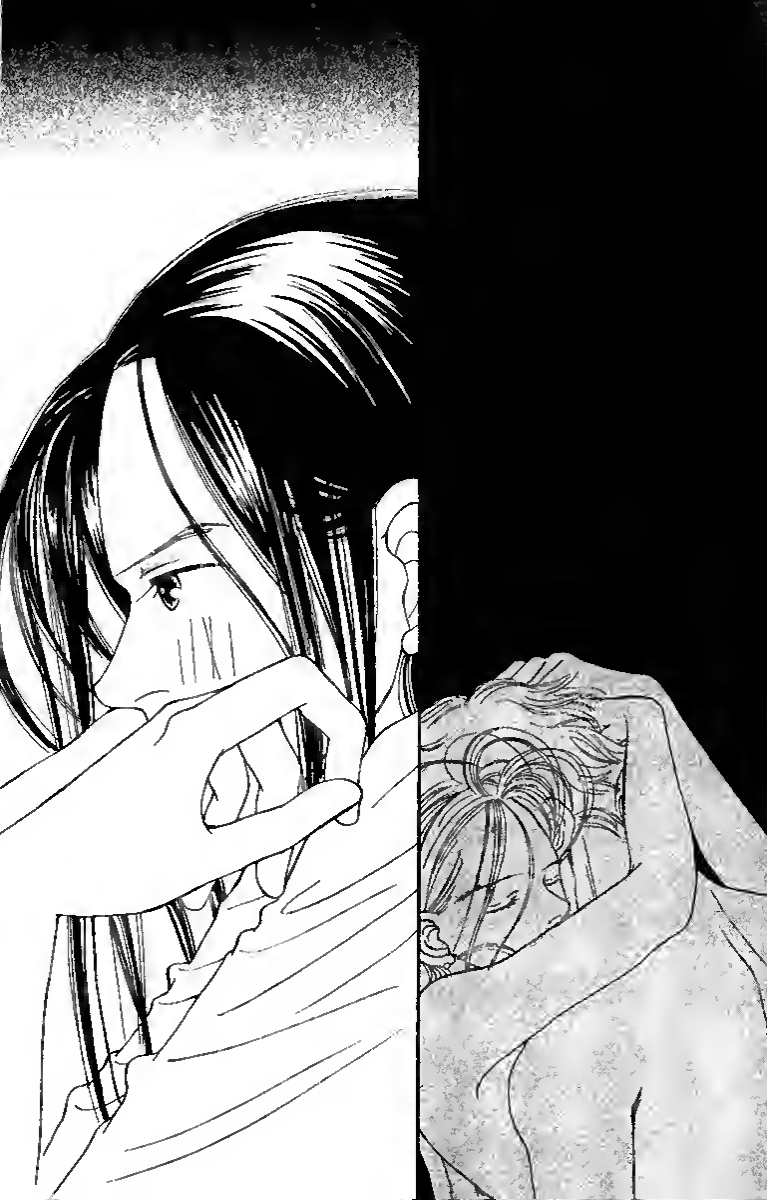
WHO WILL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE
Jolt
ARARE.
YES?

GRANDMA CALLED THIS AFTERNOON
SHE THANKED YOU FOR SEEING HER OFF. SHE'S REACHED NARA SAFELY.
I SEE.
.....
.....
.....
THAT'S ALL? I ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK.

STEP
MIYASAKO LEFT EARLY
17
MIYASAKO'S DAY OFF
18
.....

MAYBE.
IS HE AVOIDING ME?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND KEN-CHAN IN THIS HOUSE, EITHER.





Goldfish Kanten Wagashi

Kanten (agar) powder, sugar, apricot compote, diced pineapple, red water, black sesame seeds

Fukuyadon Honpo

By YUCHI Yayomi

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Translated by : Chihaya
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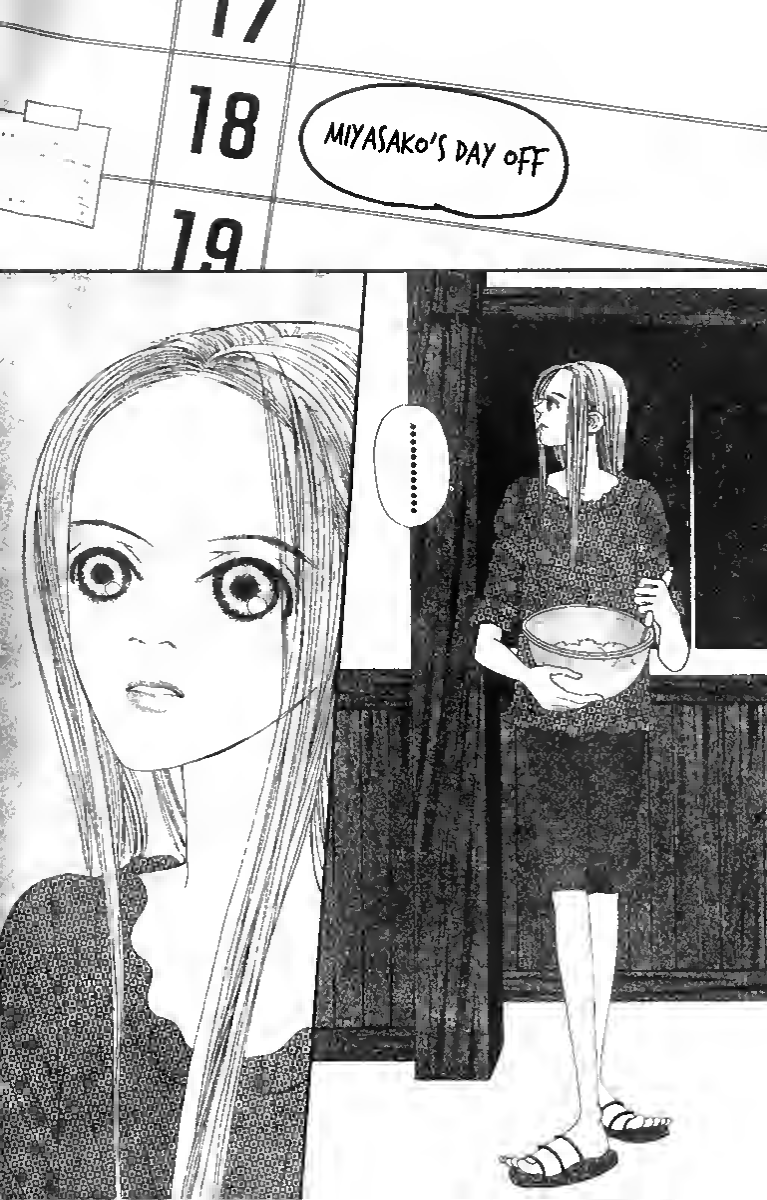
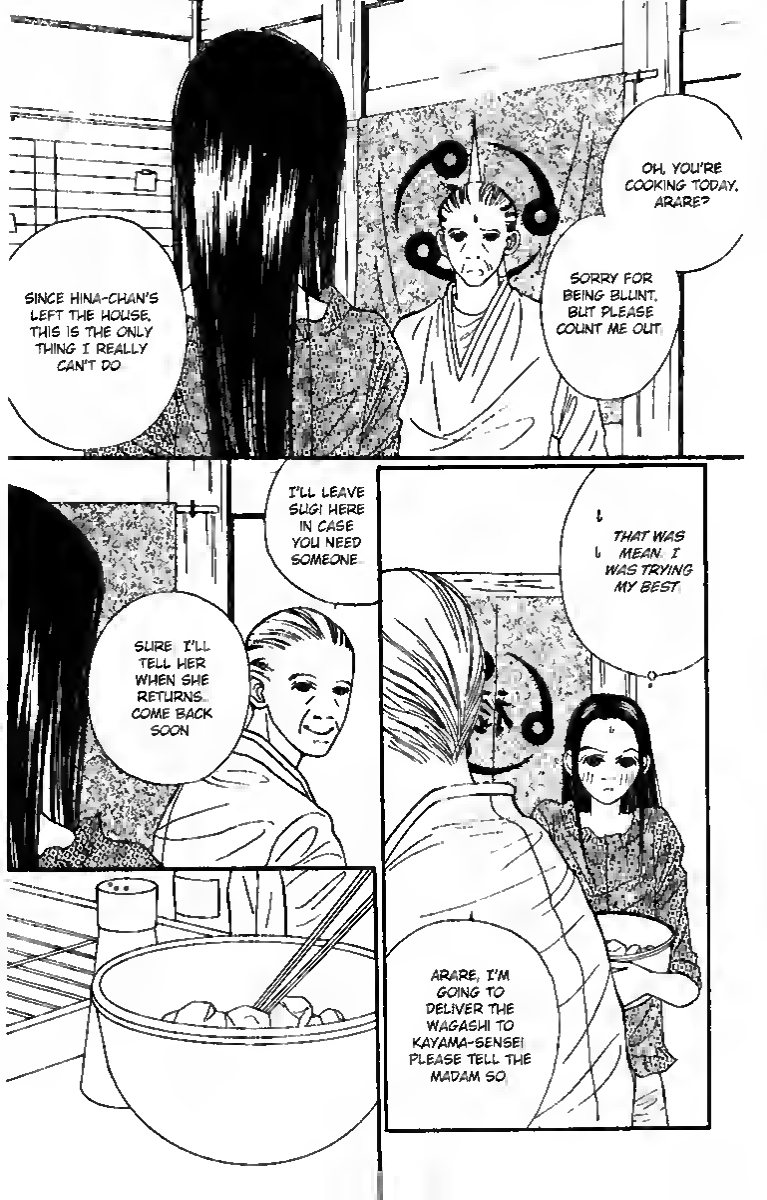
QC by : Kitimeian

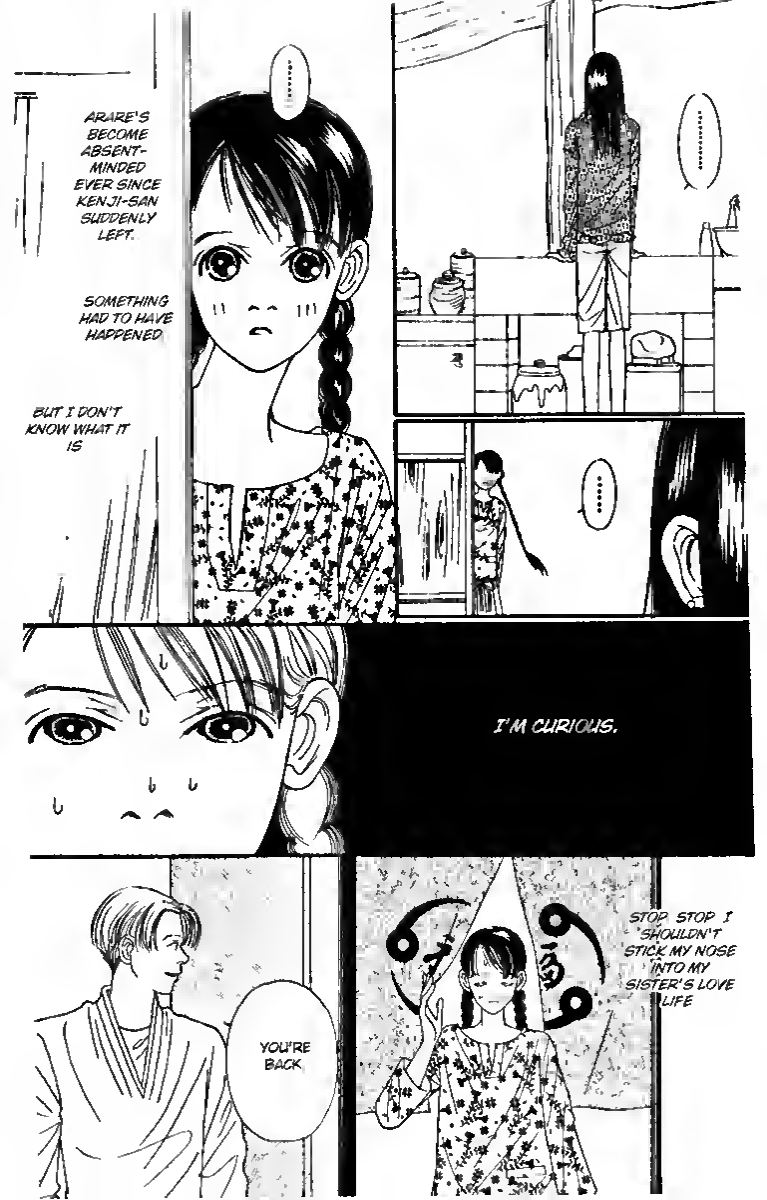
http://kickass.to/

FukuyaDou Honpo

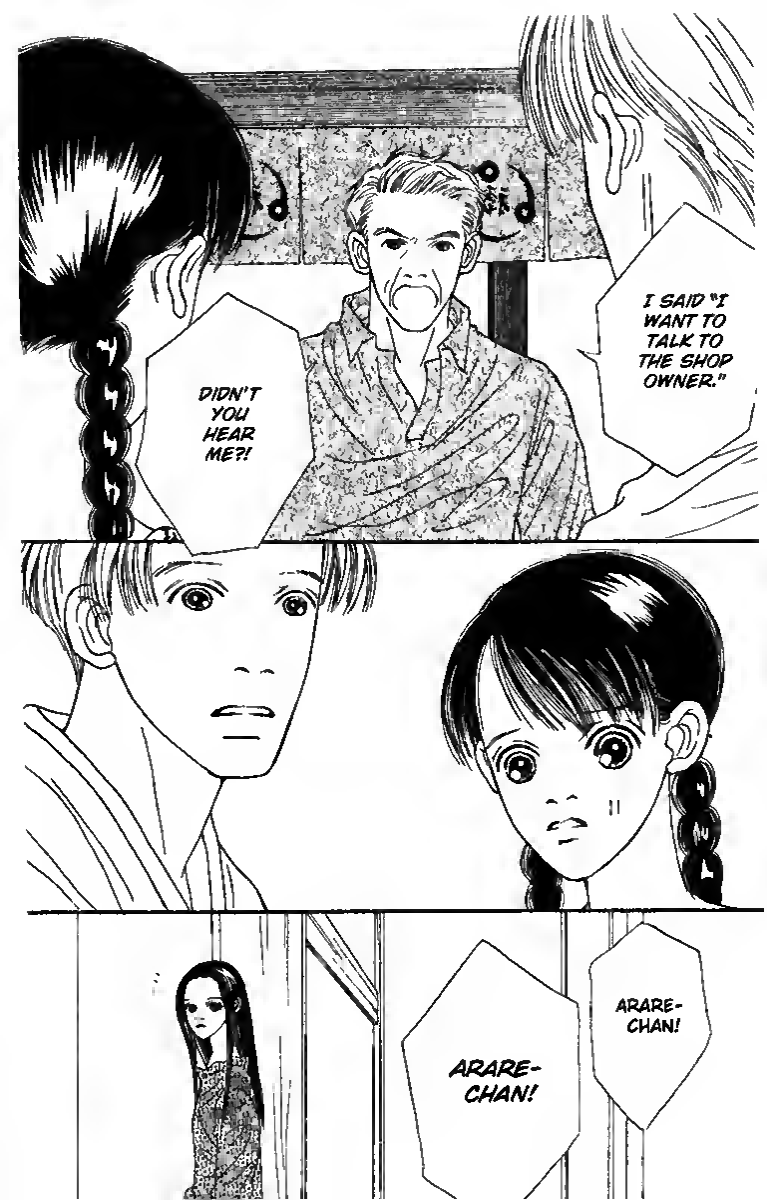
福家堂本舗


17
18
19
MIYASAKO'S DAY OFF
.....

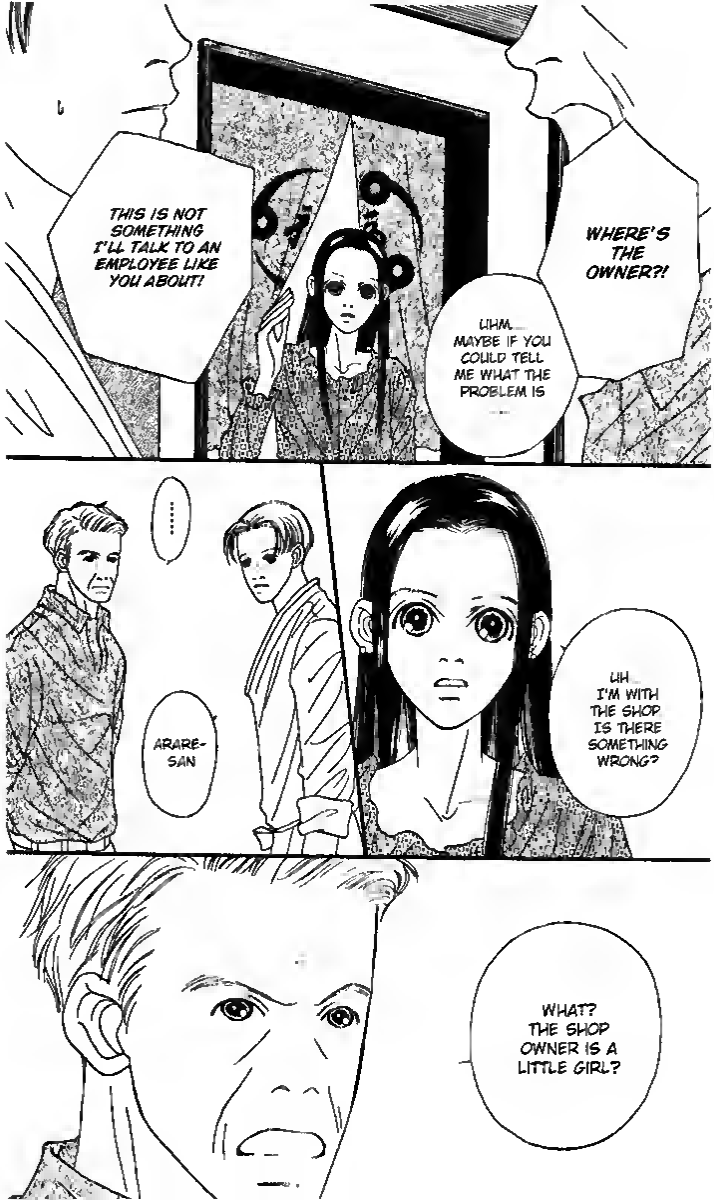

OH, YOU'RE COOKING TODAY, ARARE?
SORRY FOR BEING BLUNT, BUT PLEASE COUNT ME OUT
SINCE HINA-CHAN'S LEFT THE HOUSE, THIS IS THE ONLY THING I REALLY CAN'T DO
I'LL LEAVE SUGI HERE IN CASE YOU NEED SOMEONE
SURE. I'LL TELL HER WHEN SHE RETURNS. COME BACK SOON
THAT WAS MEAN. I WAS TRYING MY BEST
ARARE, I'M GOING TO DELIVER THE WAGASHI TO KAYAMA-SENSEI PLEASE TELL THE MADAM SO

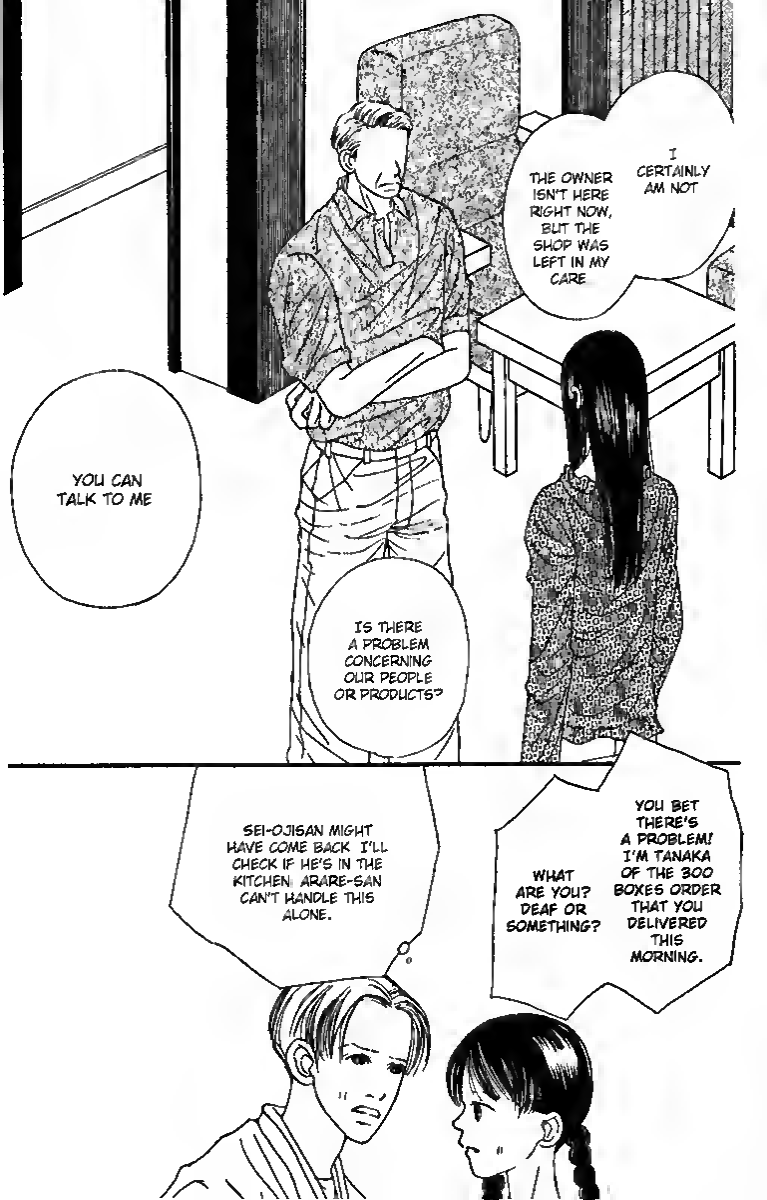

ARARE'S BECOME ABSENT-MINDED EVER SINCE KENJI-SAN SUDDENLY LEFT.
SOMETHING HAD TO HAVE HAPPENED
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS
I'M CURIOUS.
YOU'RE BACK
STOP STOP I SHOULDN'T STICK MY NOSE INTO MY SISTER'S LOVE LIFE

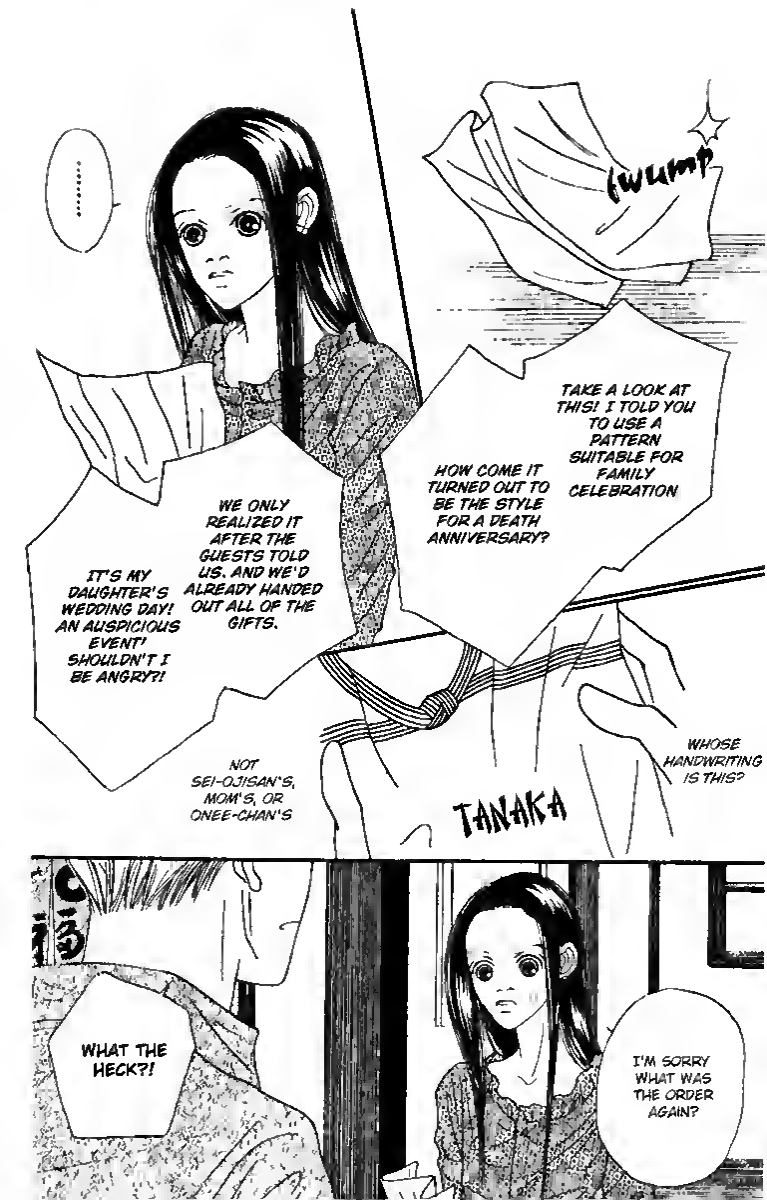
GEEZ, I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH ARARE RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING?
NOTHING FOR NOW.
MISS HINA HAS LEFT. THE MADAM WENT TO THE FLOWERFEST IN TOWN.
SUGI-SAN, WHERE ARE MOM AND ONEE-CHAN?
WELCOME!
slide
?
I WANT TO TALK TO THE SHOP OWNER.


I SAID "I WANT TO TALK TO THE SHOP OWNER."
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?!
ARARE-CHAN!
ARARE-CHAN!

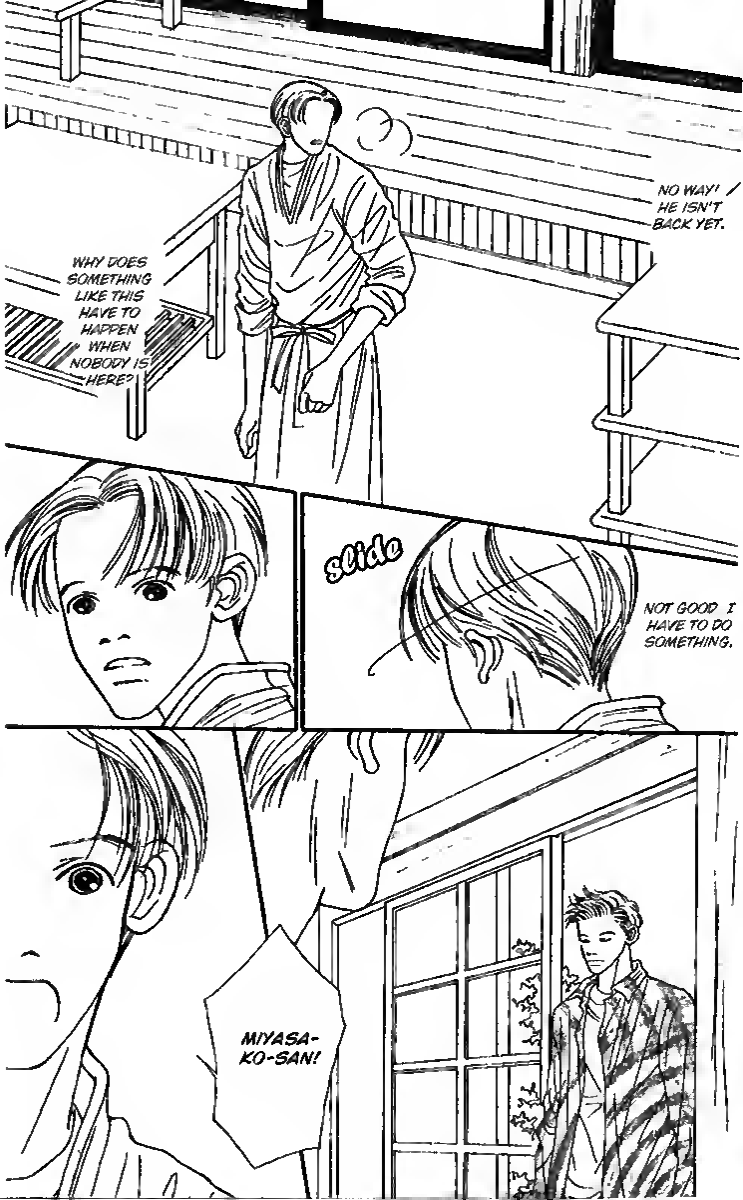
WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM!
ARARE-CHAN, COME WITH ME!
THERE'S A DISGRUNTLED CUSTOMER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE DID WRONG. HE'S SO ANGRY AND JUST KEEPS YELLING AT US.
DID WE DO SOME-THING WRONG?
SUGI-SAN IS TALKING TO HIM RIGHT NOW.
AND ALL THE CHEFS IN THE KITCHEN ARE OUT ON DELIVERY.
BOTH MOM AND SEI-OJISAN AREN'T HERE.


THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I'LL TALK TO AN EMPLOYEE LIKE YOU ABOUT!
WHERE'S THE OWNER?!
UHM... MAYBE IF YOU COULD TELL ME WHAT THE PROBLEM IS
.....
ARARE-SAN
UH... I'M WITH THE SHOP IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT? THE SHOP OWNER IS A LITTLE GIRL?

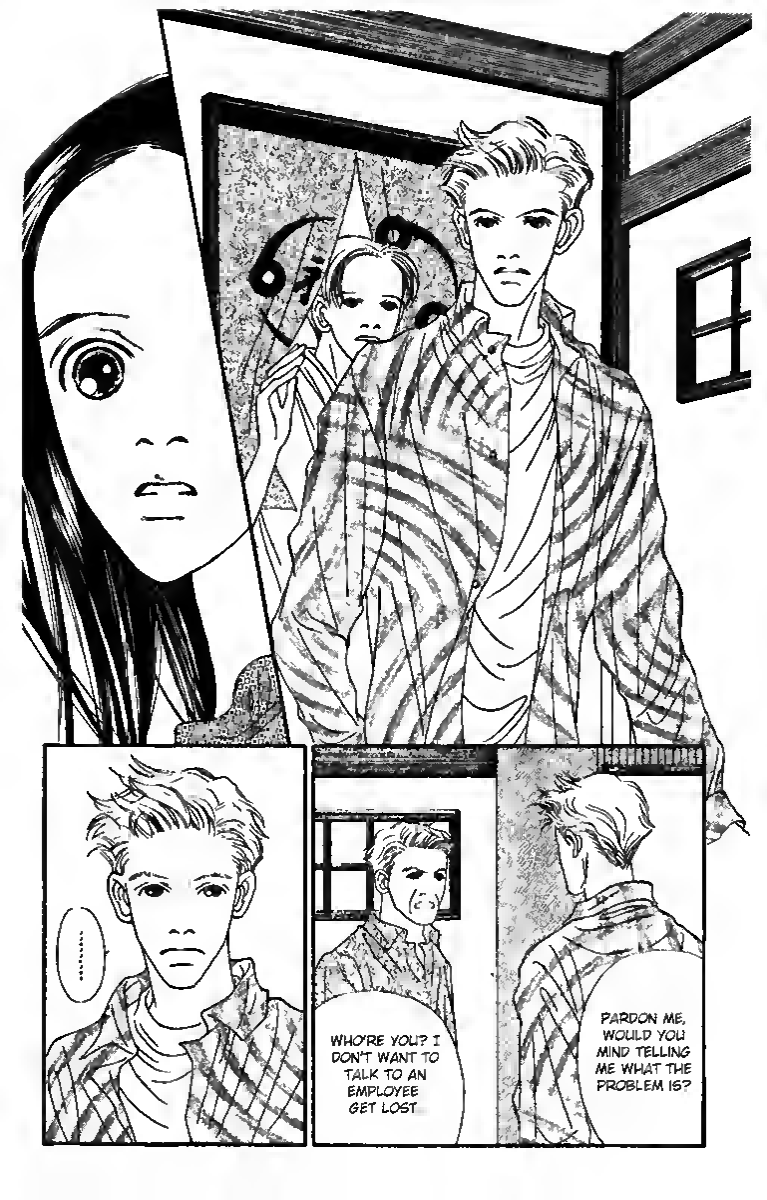

I CERTAINLY AM NOT
THE OWNER ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW, BUT THE SHOP WAS LEFT IN MY CARE
YOU CAN TALK TO ME
IS THERE A PROBLEM CONCERNING OUR PEOPLE OR PRODUCTS?
YOU BET THERE'S A PROBLEM! I'M TANAKA OF THE 300 BOXES ORDER THAT YOU DELIVERED THIS MORNING.
WHAT ARE YOU? DEAF OR SOMETHING?
SEI-OJISAN MIGHT HAVE COME BACK I'LL CHECK IF HE'S IN THE KITCHEN. ARARE-SAN CAN'T HANDLE THIS ALONE.

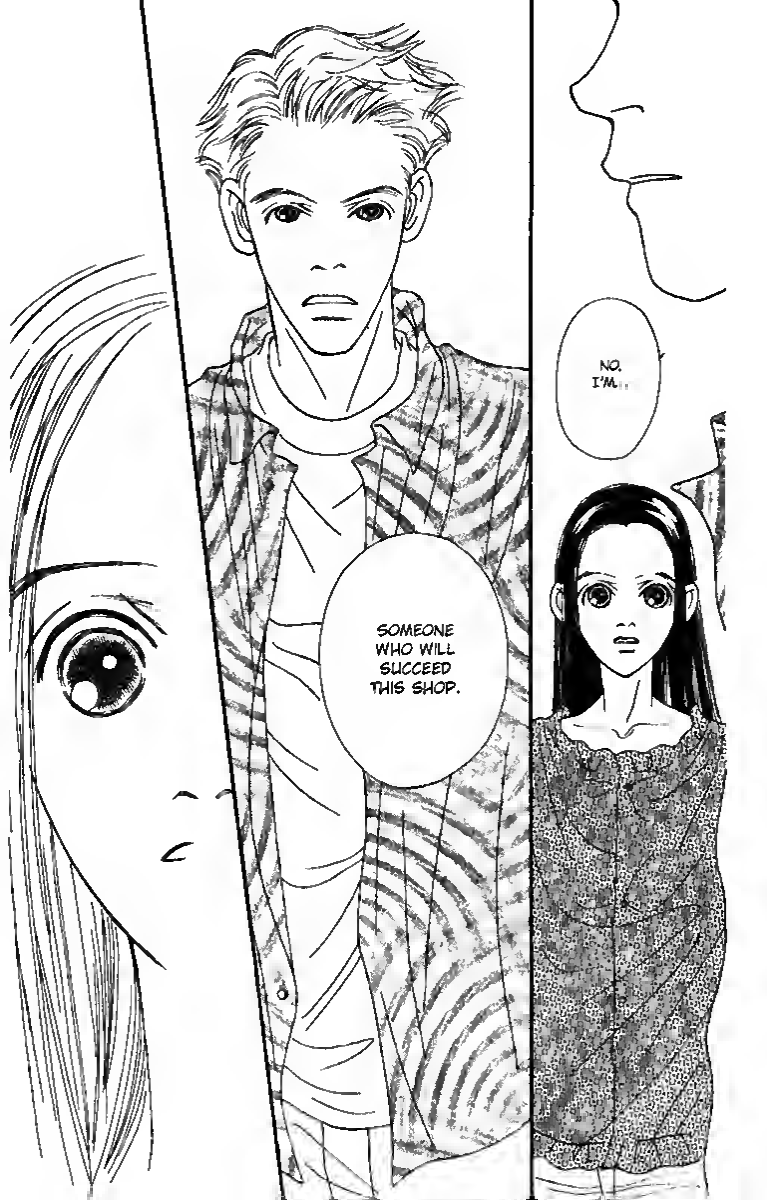

.....
fwump
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! I TOLD YOU TO USE A PATTERN SUITABLE FOR FAMILY CELEBRATION
HOW COME IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE STYLE FOR A DEATH ANNIVERSARY?
WE ONLY REALIZED IT AFTER THE GUESTS TOLD US. AND WE'D ALREADY HANDED OUT ALL OF THE GIFTS.
IT'S MY DAUGHTER'S WEDDING DAY! AN AUSPICIOUS EVENT! SHOULDN'T I BE ANGRY?!
WHOSE HANDWRITING IS THIS?
TANAKA
NOT SEI-OJISAN'S, MOM'S, OR ONEE-CHAN'S
WHAT THE HECK?!
I'M SORRY WHAT WAS THE ORDER AGAIN?

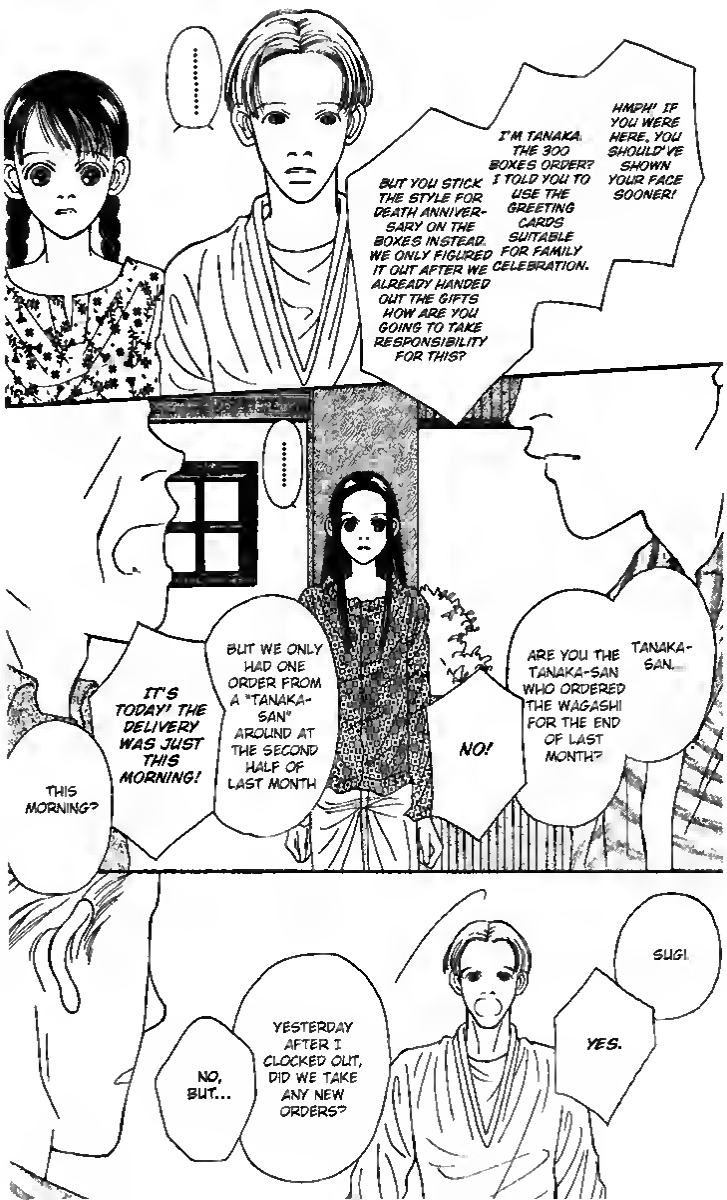
GET ME SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!
CRAP
I WAS ON VACATION I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ORDER HE MEANS
YOUR SHOP JUST DELIV-ERED IT THIS MORNING. HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW?!
I'M DONE TALKING TO YOU. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL!
BANG


NO WAY! / HE ISN'T BACK YET.
WHY DOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN WHEN NOBODY IS HERE?
slide
NOT GOOD I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
MIYASA-KO-SAN!

I THOUGHT YOU TOOK THE DAY OFF.
YEAH, I HAD SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF. WHERE'S ARARE?
THERE'S AN ANGRY CUSTOMER IN THE STORE FRONT RIGHT NOW
NOBODY IS HOME SO SHE IS OUT THERE ALONE
IT SEEMS THAT THERE WAS A MISTAKE WITH OUR PRODUCTS
.....
HE LOOKS LIKE HE IS READY TO BITE HER HEAD OFF.
WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR. PLEASE LET ME CHECK.
STOP BABBLING. I'LL ONLY TALK WITH SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE JOB!

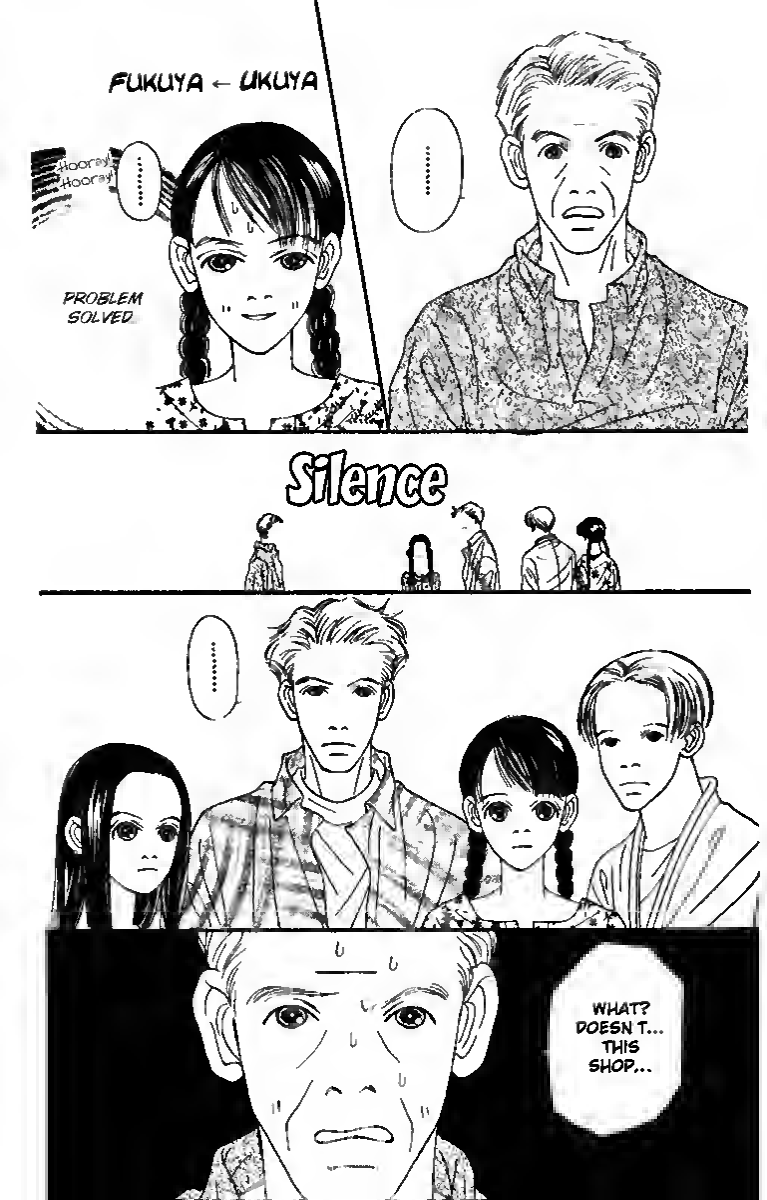

PARDON ME, WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT THE PROBLEM IS?
WHO'RE YOU? I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO AN EMPLOYEE GET LOST
.....


NO. I'M...
SOMEONE WHO WILL SUCCEED THIS SHOP.


.....
HMPH! IF YOU WERE HERE, YOU SHOULD'VE SHOWN YOUR FACE SOONER!
I'M TANAKA. THE 300 BOXES ORDER? I TOLD YOU TO USE THE GREETING CARDS SUITABLE FOR FAMILY CELEBRATION.
BUT YOU STICK THE STYLE FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARY ON THE BOXES INSTEAD. WE ONLY FIGURED IT OUT AFTER WE ALREADY HANDED OUT THE GIFTS HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS?
.....
TANAKA-SAN...
ARE YOU THE TANAKA-SAN WHO ORDERED THE WAGASHI FOR THE END OF LAST MONTH?
NO!
BUT WE ONLY HAD ONE ORDER FROM A "TANAKA-SAN" AROUND AT THE SECOND HALF OF LAST MONTH
IT'S TODAY! THE DELIVERY WAS JUST THIS MORNING!
THIS MORNING?
SUGI.
YES.
YESTERDAY AFTER I CLOCKED OUT, DID WE TAKE ANY NEW ORDERS?
NO, BUT...

STRANGE I'M SURE I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF ALL PREVIOUS ORDERS. I CAN'T RECALL TAKING SUCH AN ORDER
I REALLY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT THERE WAS DEFINITELY NO RUSH ORDER YESTERDAY
300 BOXES OF SEAWEED!
AND TOLD YOU TO DELIVER IT THIS MORNING.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING OVER THERE? I PLACED THE ORDER LAST MONTH.
.....
SEA-WEED?

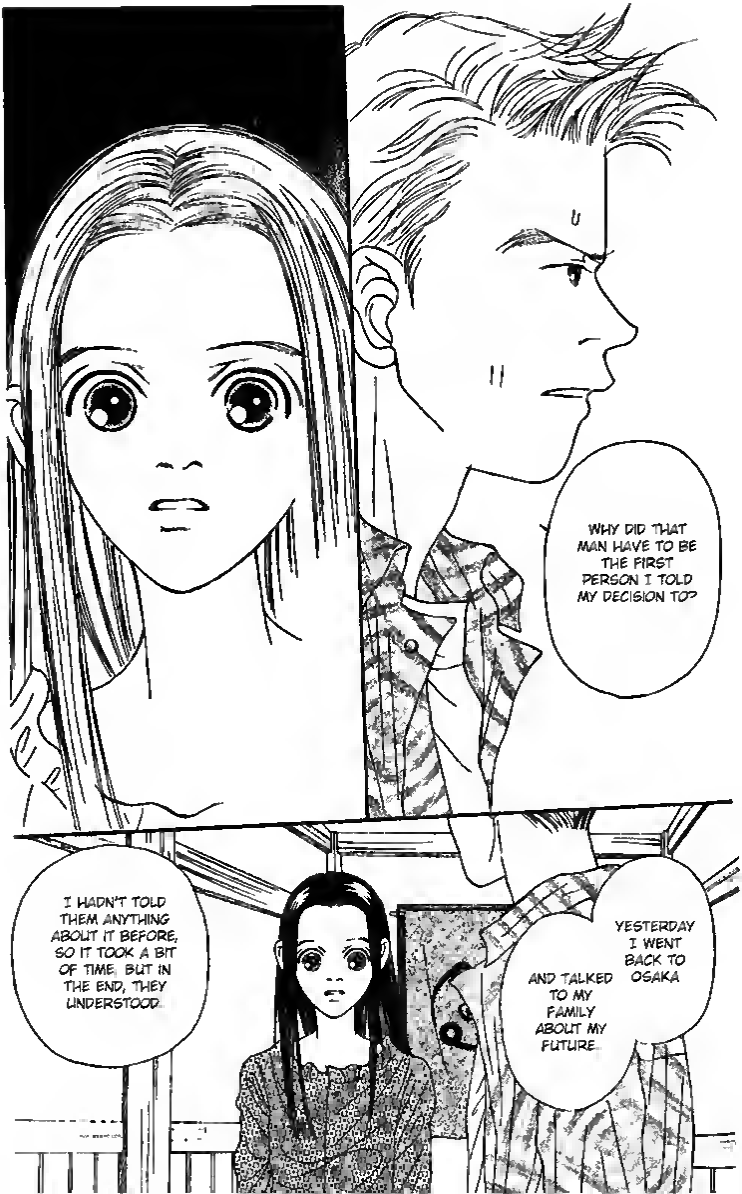
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, THIS IS A WAGASHI SHOP.
SHE ALSO CALLED TO REMIND YOU MANY TIMES.
OF COURSE! MY WIFE CAME HERE AND PLACED AN ORDER HERSELF.
N- NOT A SEAWEED SHOP?
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT YOU MISTOOK OUR SHOP AS THEIRS?
THERE'S A SEAWEED SHOP ABOUT 100 METERS AWAY FROM HERE NAMED "UKIYA".

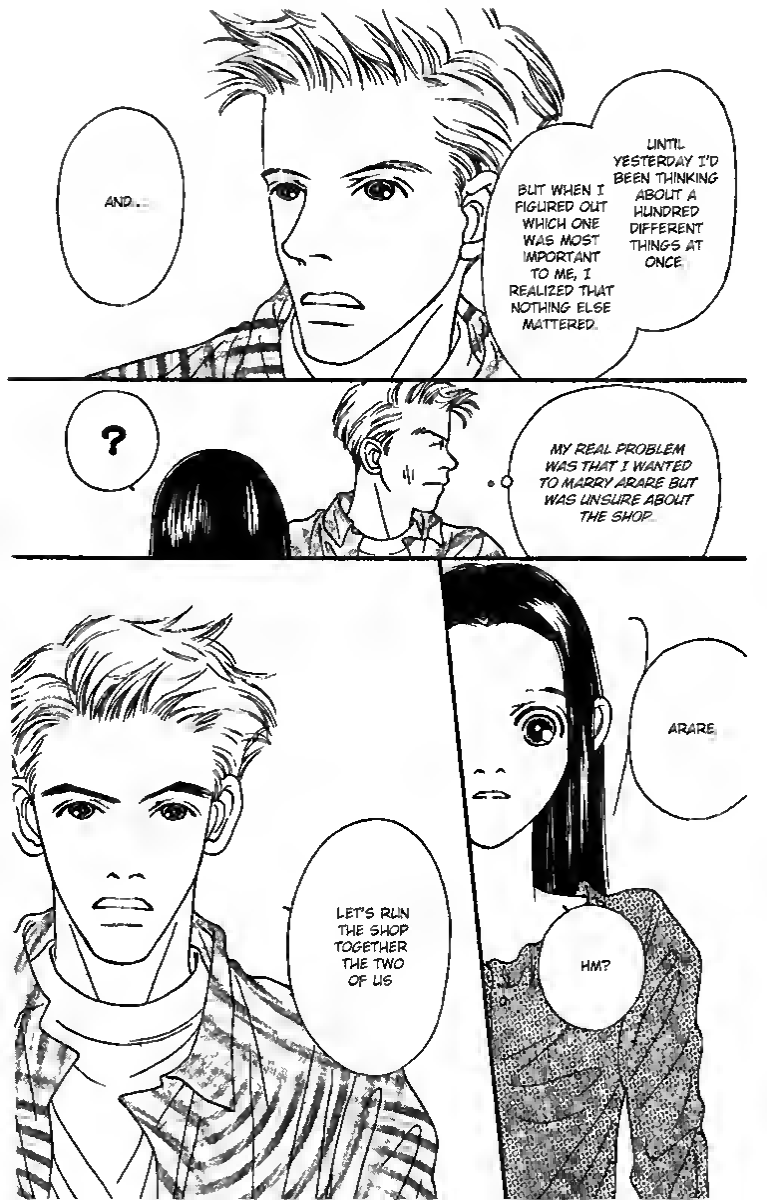

FUKUYA ← UKUYA
Hooray Hooray
PROBLEM SOLVED
Silence
WHAT? DOESN'T... THIS SHOP...

...ALSO SELL SEAWEED?
Trying to cover your mistake with that.
Give us a break.
Isn't it too easy?
GOSH, THAT WAS SCARY.

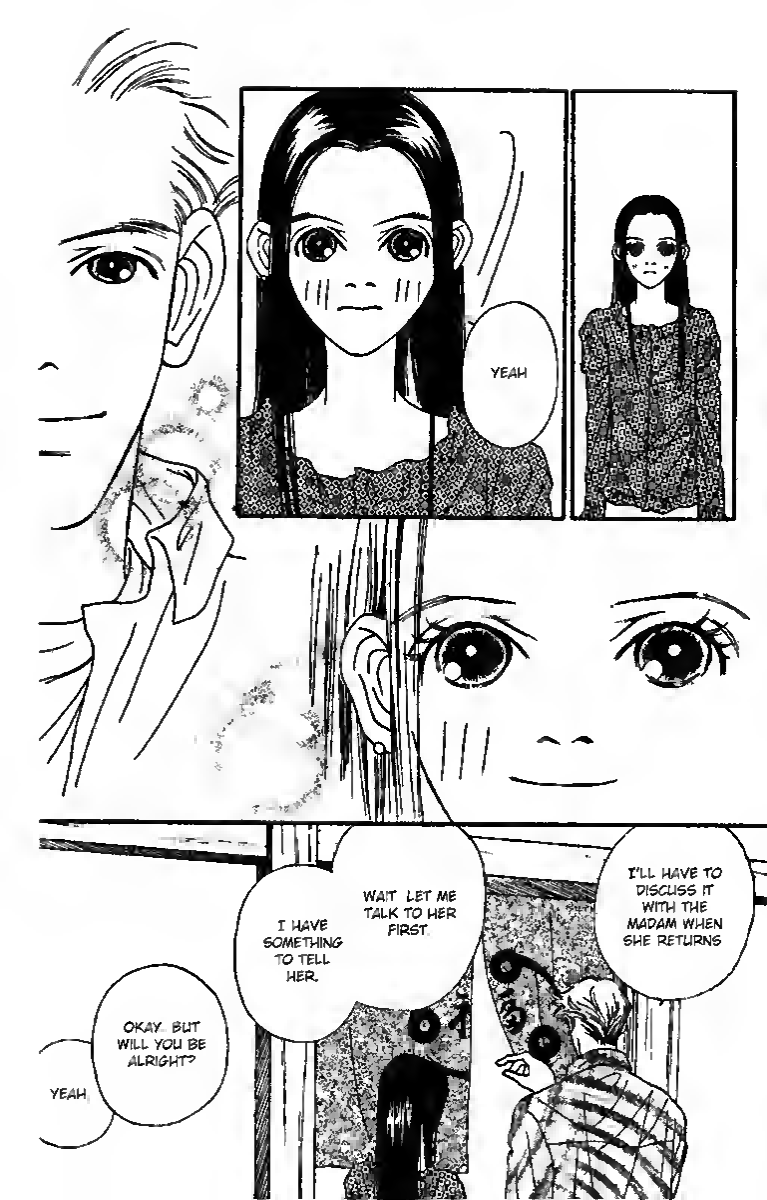
HA HA, BUT HE MUST HAVE COOLED DOWN SOMEWHAT.
THAT OJISAN IS PROBABLY THROWING A FIT AT THE UKUYA SHOP NOW.
ABOUT BEING THE SUCCES-SOR?
YEAH
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT LIKE MIYASAKO-SAN TO LIE TO HIM LIKE THAT.
HUH?
A LIE?

TH-THANK YOU
.....
KEN-CHAN
WHAT'S WRONG, KEN-CHAN?
.....


WHY DID THAT MAN HAVE TO BE THE FIRST PERSON I TOLD MY DECISION TO?
YESTERDAY I WENT BACK TO OSAKA
AND TALKED TO MY FAMILY ABOUT MY FUTURE...
I HADN'T TOLD THEM ANYTHING ABOUT IT BEFORE, SO IT TOOK A BIT OF TIME. BUT IN THE END, THEY UNDERSTOOD...

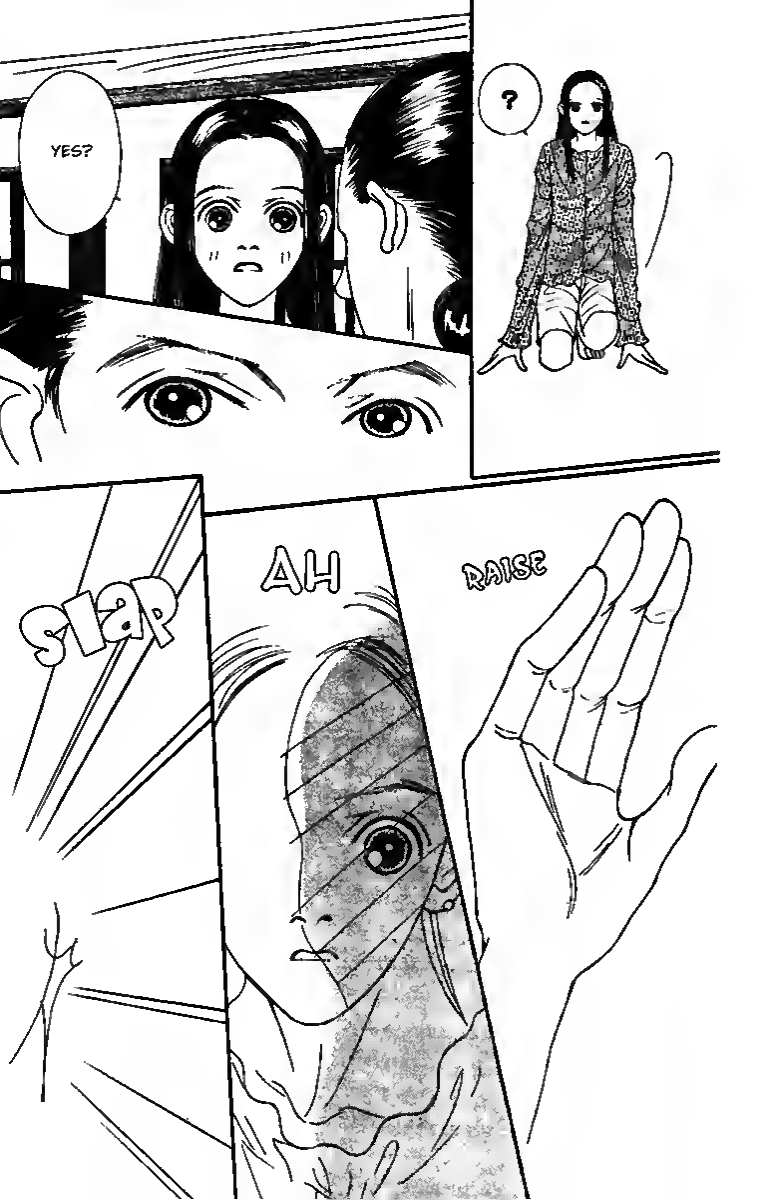

AND...
BUT WHEN I FIGURED OUT WHICH ONE WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, I REALIZED THAT NOTHING ELSE MATTERED.
UNTIL YESTERDAY I'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT A HUNDRED DIFFERENT THINGS AT ONCE.
?
MY REAL PROBLEM WAS THAT I WANTED TO MARRY ARARE BUT WAS UNSURE ABOUT THE SHOP.
ARARE
HM?
LET'S RUN THE SHOP TOGETHER THE TWO OF US

IF WE RUN INTO PROBLEMS, WE'LL ASK THE MADAM OR SEI-OJISAN FOR HELP.
LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.
.....


YEAH
I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE MADAM WHEN SHE RETURNS
WAIT LET ME TALK TO HER FIRST
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL HER
OKAY BUT WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
YEAH

I'M BACK
WELCOME BACK
YOU'RE BACK
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
SO WHAT IS IT?
.....

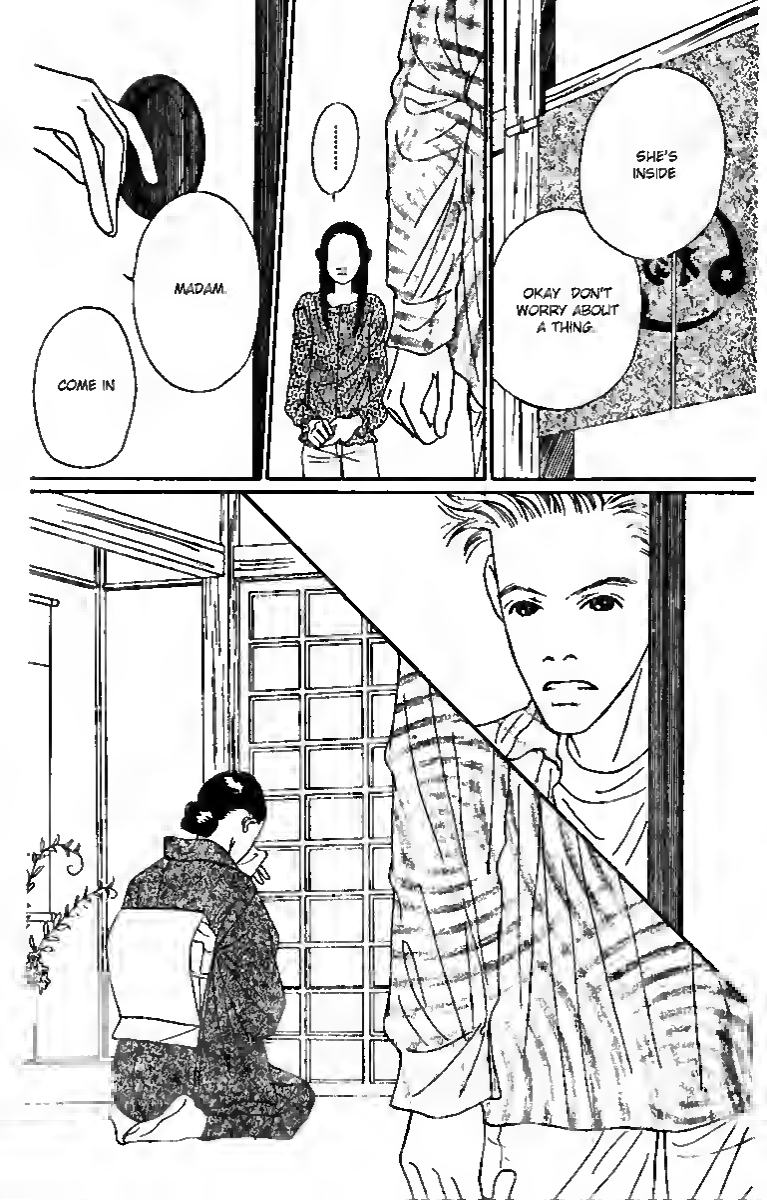
I WANT TO GET MARRIED.
UMM. UHH...
MOM...
THEN I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO OBJECT.
KEN-CHAN
TO WHOM?
BUT ARARE, COME OVER HERE
YES.
HAS HE AGREED TO THIS?


YES?
?
SLAP
AH
RAISE

DO NOT EVER DO SOMETHING AS DISGRACEFUL AS COMING HOME AT DAWN WITH A MAN AGAIN!
IT'LL BE A DISGRACE TO YOURSELF!
.....

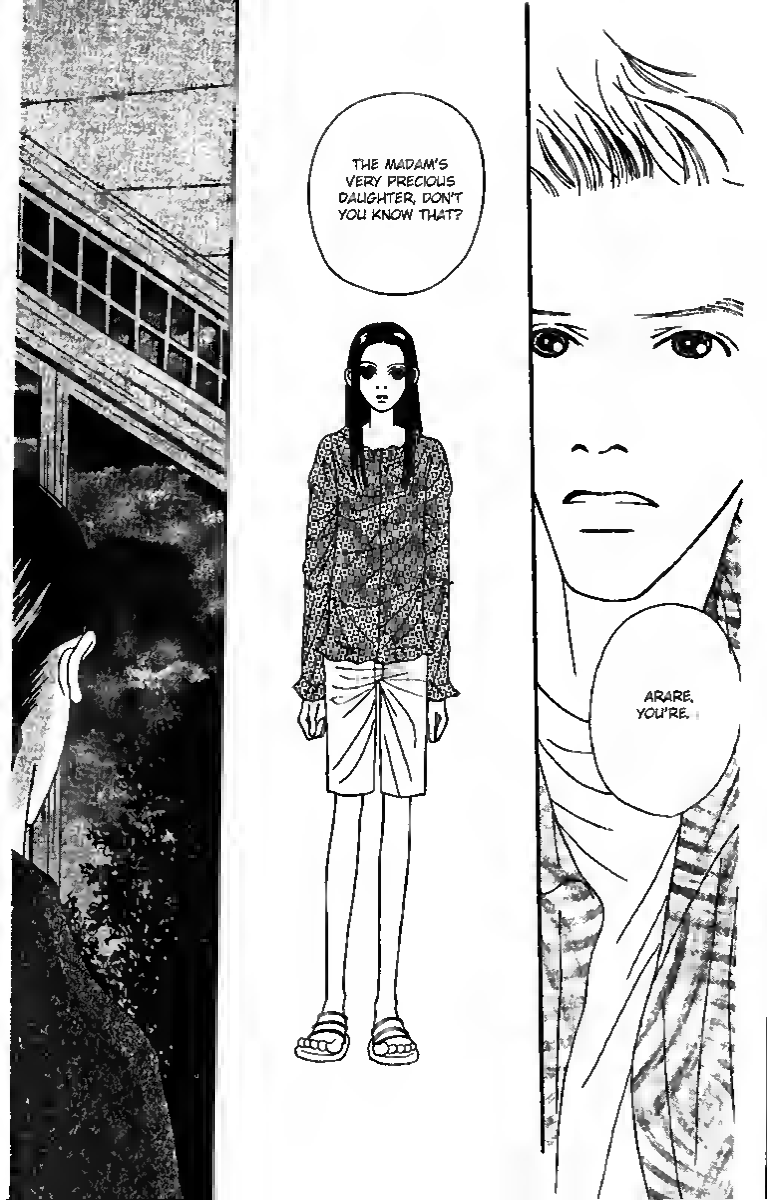
WHERE'S KEN-CHAN?
HE'S IN THE OFFICE.
I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.
OKAY
I'M SORRY.
MOM
MOM
THANK YOU FOR BEING CONCERNED ABOUT ME AND KEN-CHAN.
OTHERWISE, THINGS MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WAY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

KEN-CHAN, MOM WANTS TO SEE YOU
Slide
BANG
"
"
.....
HOW WAS IT?
I GOT SLAPPED FOR SPENDING THE NIGHT OUT
YOU MIGHT GET IT TOO, KEN-CHAN.
I'M PREPARED FOR WORSE.

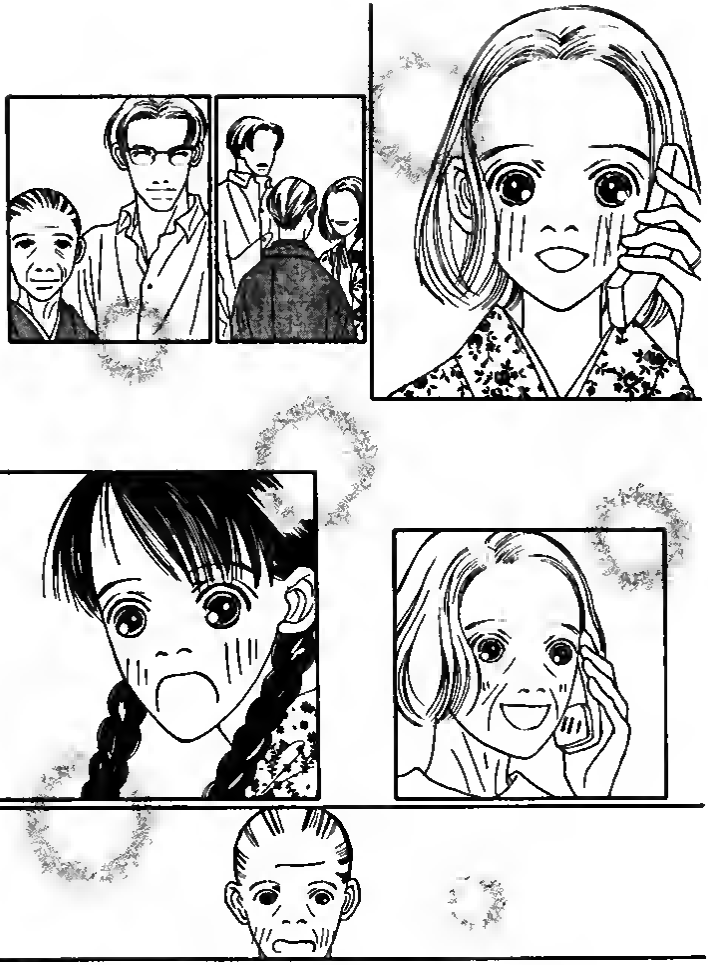

SHE'S INSIDE
OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING.
.....
MADAM.
COME IN

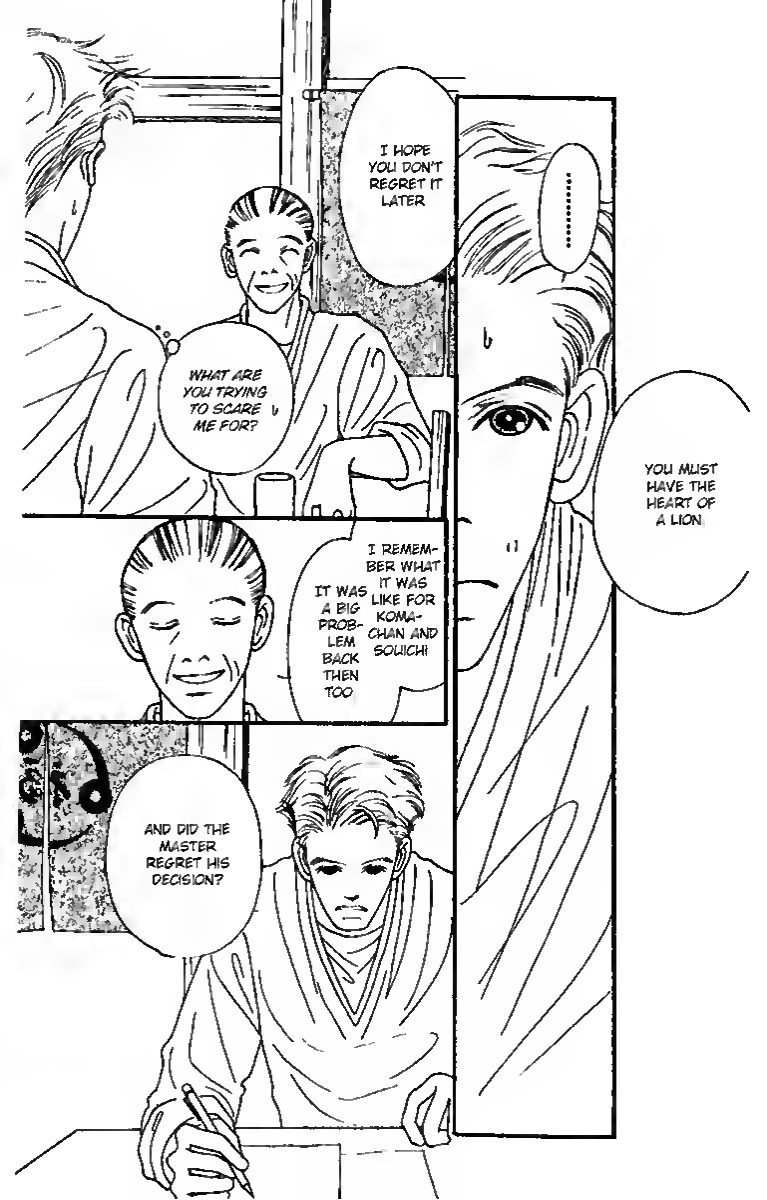
I DON'T KNOW WHY
I'M SO STRANGELY RELIEVED WHEN I HEARD THAT THIS DAUGHTER OF MINE WAS GETTING MARRIED
I WAS WORRIED FOR HINA, TOO, BUT THIS WASN'T THE SAME
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GIRL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO MADE MY DREAMS COME TRUE

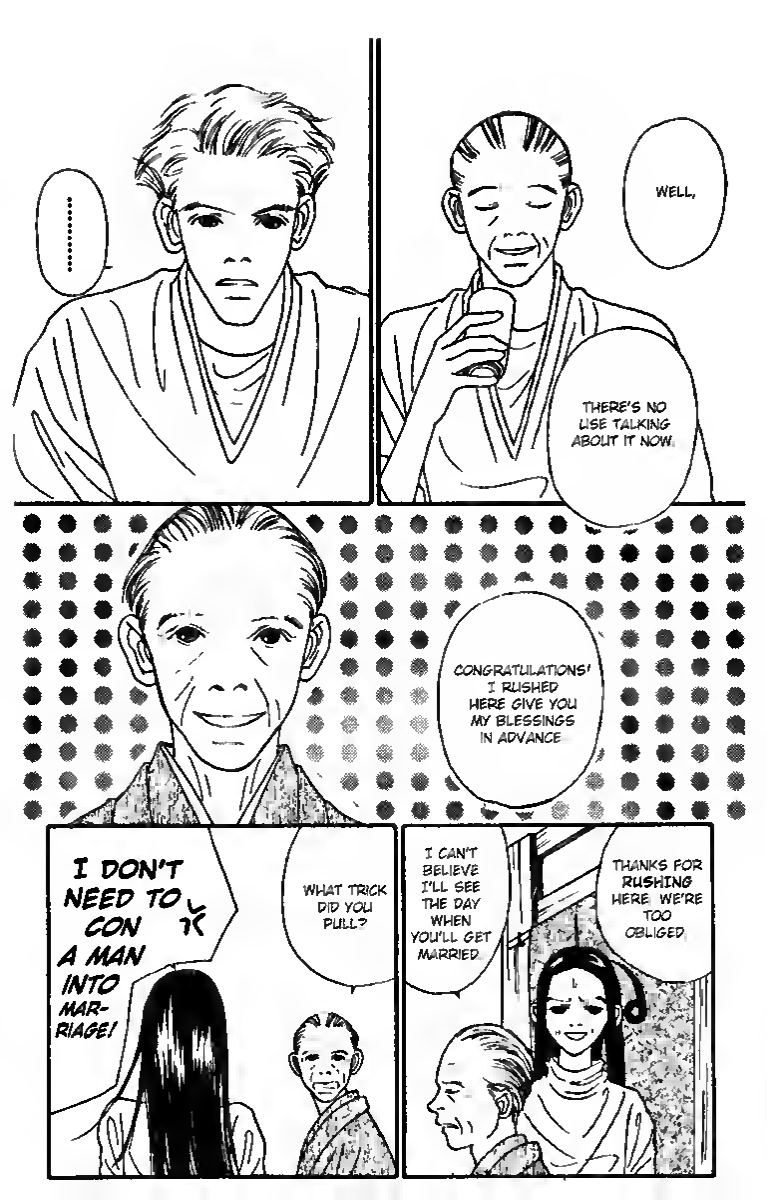
FLAP
.....
SHE OFTEN MADE ME SHED TEARS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG
EVEN NOW SHE STILL DOES
HOW WAS IT? DID SHE HIT YOU?
YEAH
A BIG ONE
EH? NO WAY. EVEN IT'S MOM, SHE WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS HITTING YOU.
.....

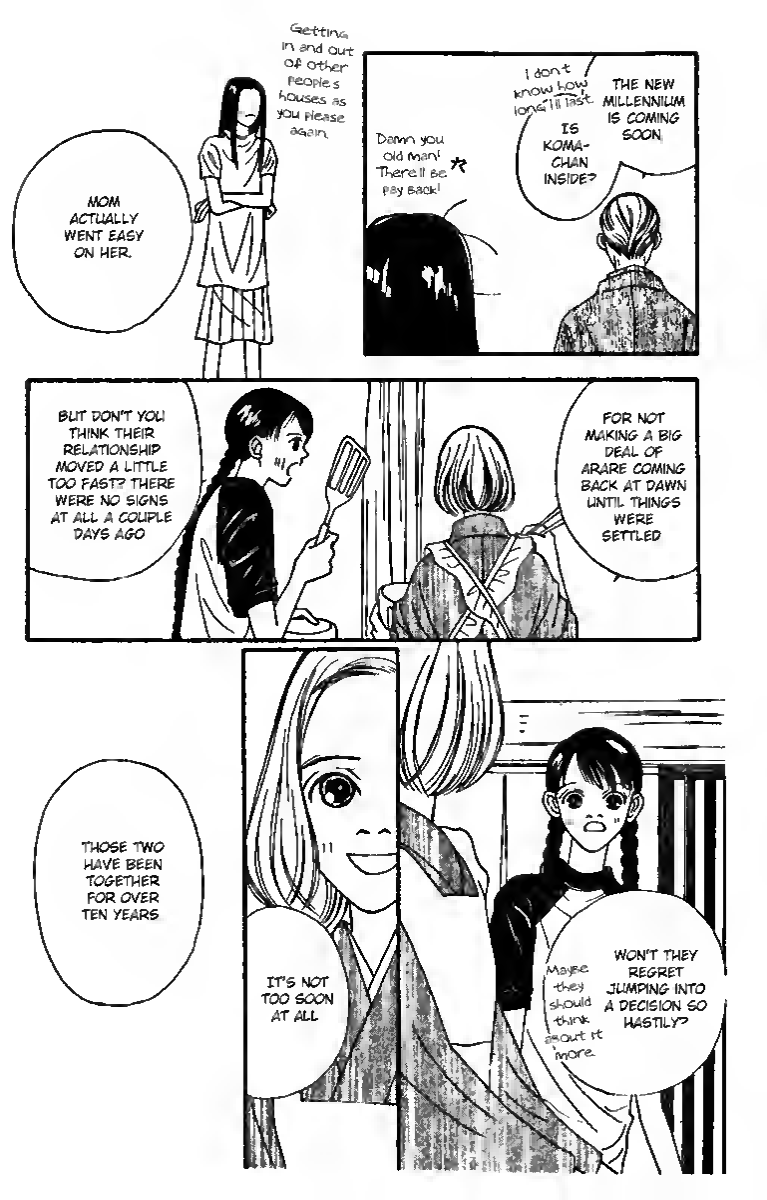

THE MADAM'S VERY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
ARARE, YOU'RE,

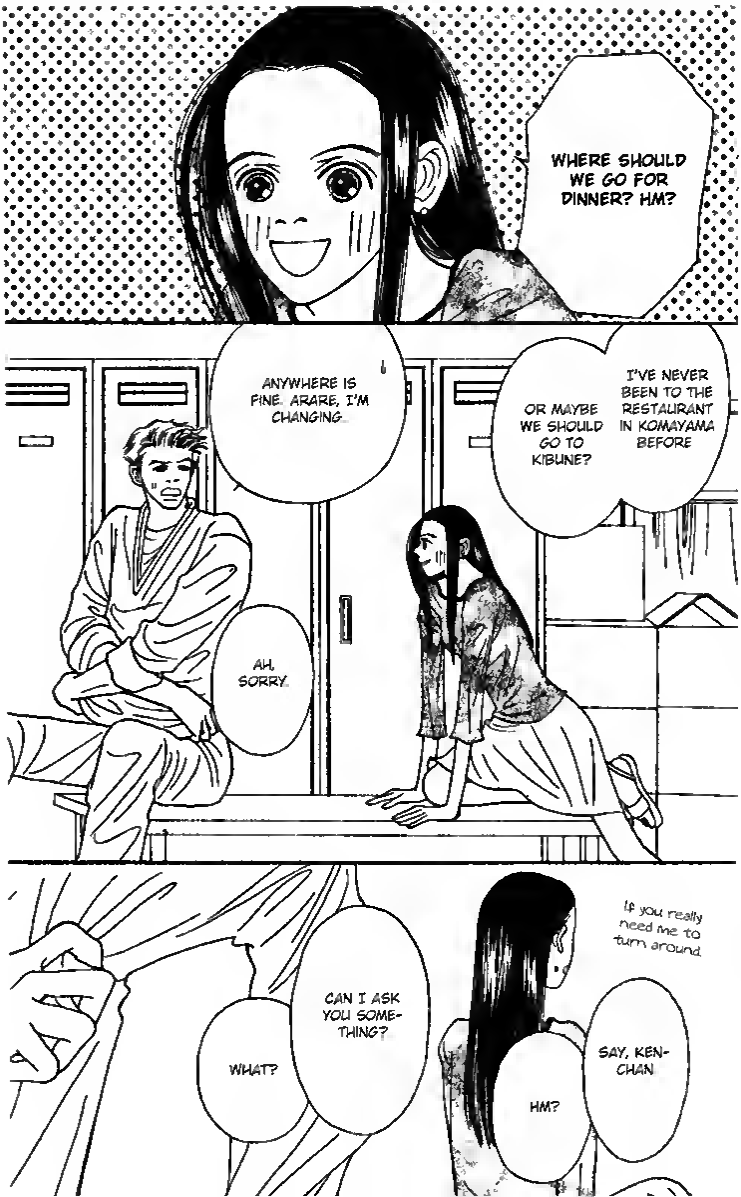
I FINALLY DID IT.
FINALLY
before Ken-chan changes his mind
THIS CALLS FOR SOME INTENSIVE TRAINING. I'M GONNA GRIND THAT BRATTY DAUGHTER TO THE BONE.
SNAP
IT'S NO TIME TO REJOICE, KOMAKO! NOW THAT SHE'S REALLY DECIDED TO SUCCEED THE SHOP,

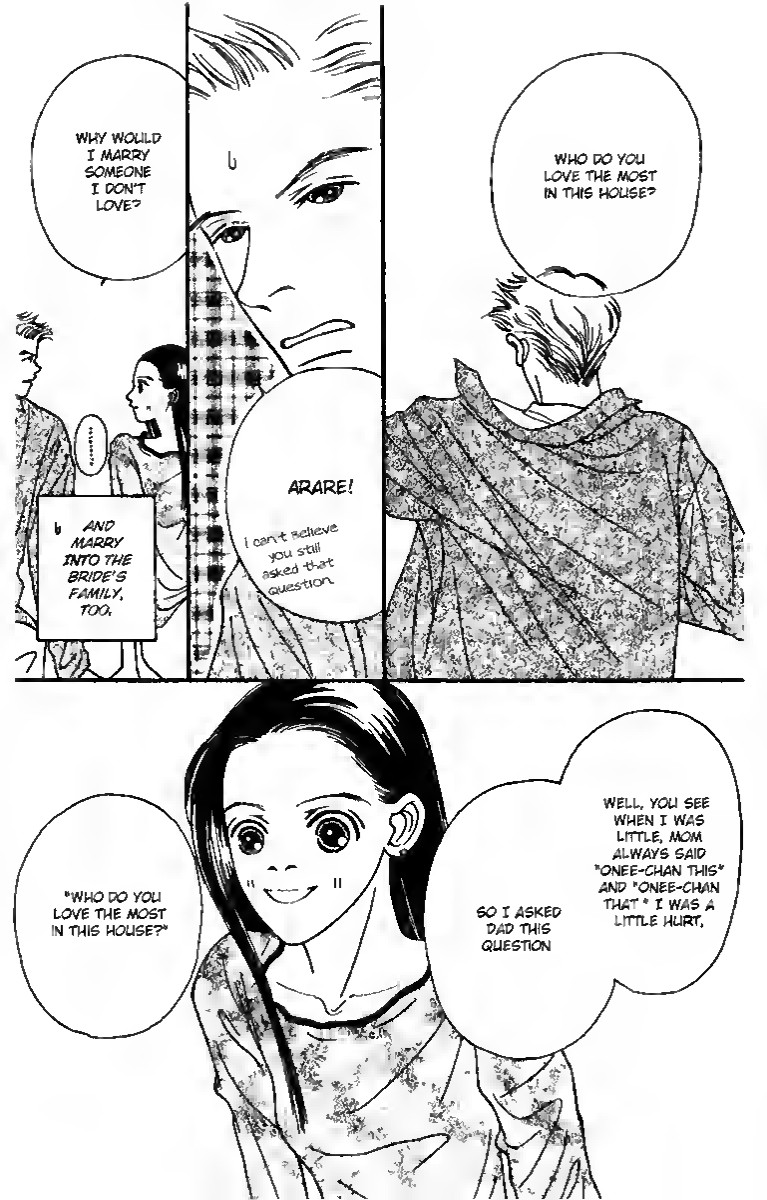


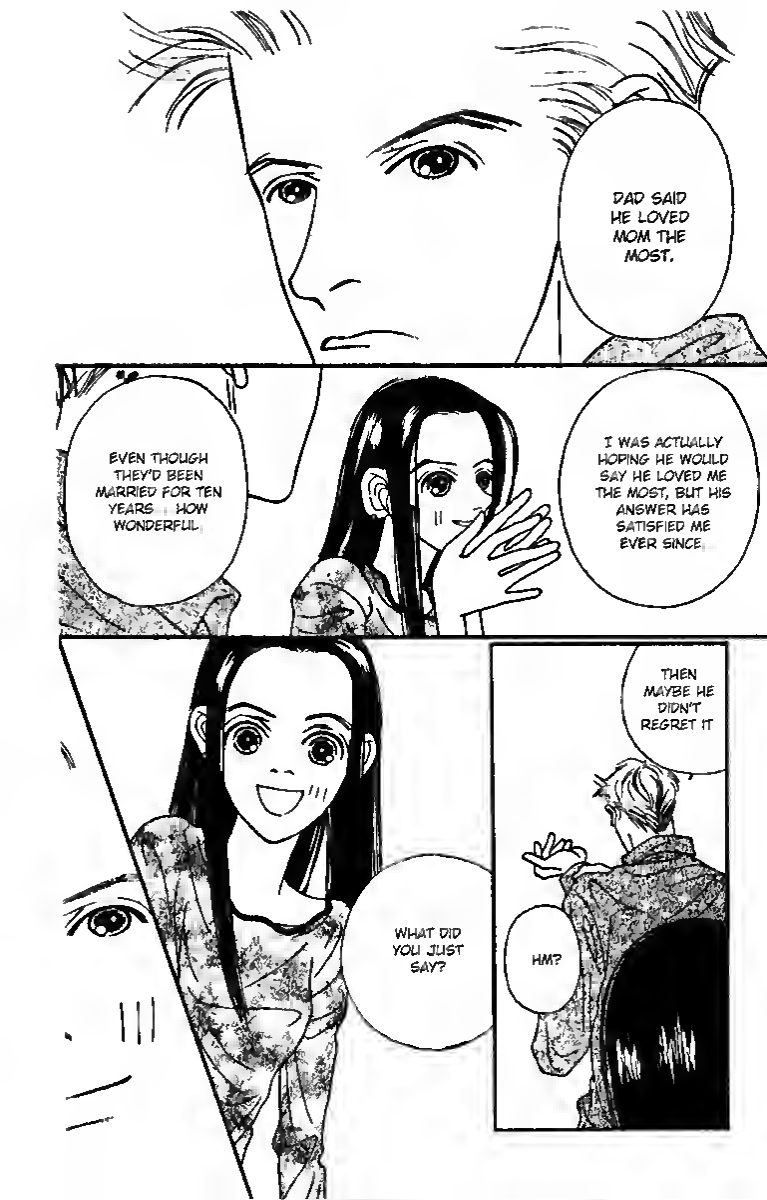

I HOPE YOU DON'T REGRET IT LATER
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME FOR?
.....
YOU MUST HAVE THE HEART OF A LION
I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR KOMA-CHAN AND SOUICHI
IT WAS A BIG PROBLEM BACK THEN TOO
AND DID THE MASTER REGRET HIS DECISION?

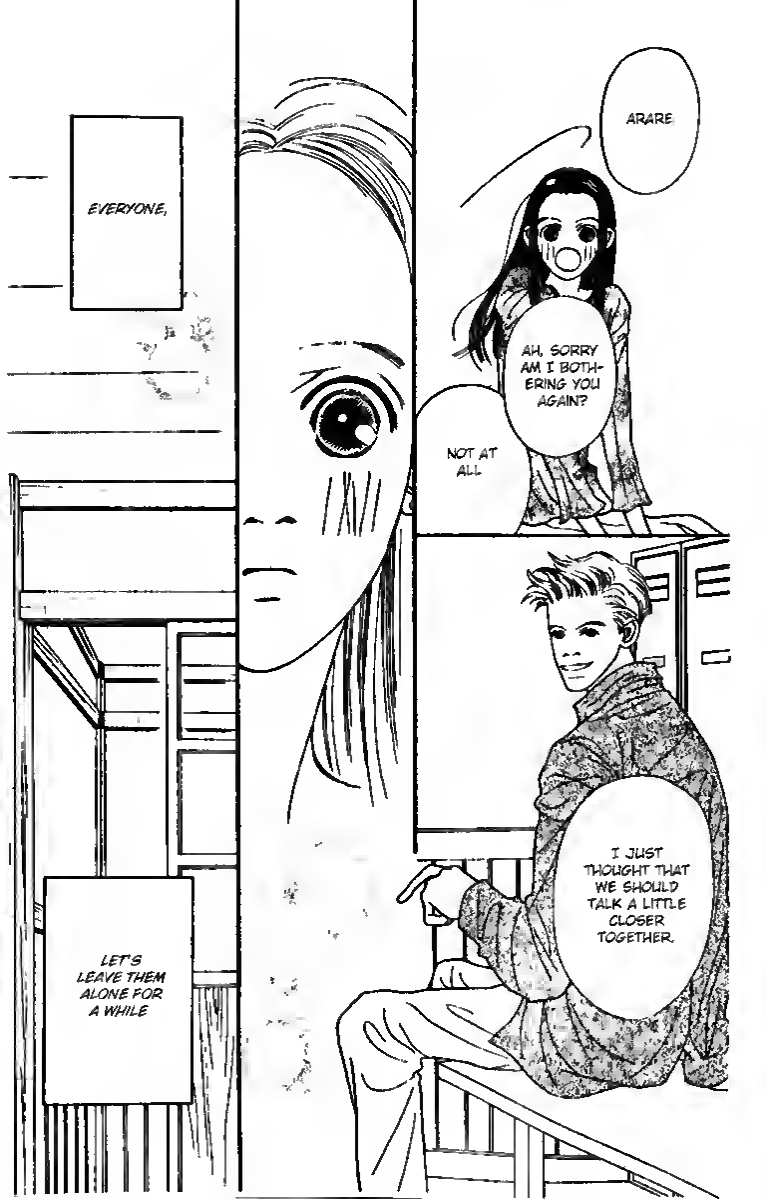

.....
WELL,
THERE'S NO USE TALKING ABOUT IT NOW.
CONGRATULATIONS! I RUSHED HERE GIVE YOU MY BLESSINGS IN ADVANCE
I DON'T NEED TO CON A MAN INTO MARRIAGE!
WHAT TRICK DID YOU PULL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'LL SEE THE DAY WHEN YOU'LL GET MARRIED
THANKS FOR RUSHING HERE WE'RE TOO OBLIGED


Getting in and out of other people's houses as you please again.
MOM ACTUALLY WENT EASY ON HER.
Damn you old man! There'll be pay back!
I don't know how long it'll last.
THE NEW MILLENNIUM IS COMING SOON
IS KOMA-CHAN INSIDE?
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THEIR RELATIONSHIP MOVED A LITTLE TOO FAST? THERE WERE NO SIGNS AT ALL A COUPLE DAYS AGO
FOR NOT MAKING A BIG DEAL OF ARARE COMING BACK AT DAWN UNTIL THINGS WERE SETTLED
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR OVER TEN YEARS
IT'S NOT TOO SOON AT ALL
Maybe they should think about it more.
WON'T THEY REGRET JUMPING INTO A DECISION SO HASTILY?


WHERE SHOULD WE GO FOR DINNER? HM?
ANYWHERE IS FINE. ARARE, I'M CHANGING.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE RESTAURANT IN KOMAYAMA BEFORE
OR MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO KIBUNE?
AH, SORRY.
If you really need me to turn around
SAY, KEN-CHAN
HM?
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT?


WHY WOULD I MARRY SOMEONE I DON'T LOVE?
AND MARRY INTO THE BRIDE'S FAMILY, TOO.
.....
ARARE!
I can't believe you still asked that question.
WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THIS HOUSE?
"WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THIS HOUSE?"
SO I ASKED DAD THIS QUESTION
WELL, YOU SEE WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MOM ALWAYS SAID "ONEE-CHAN THIS" AND "ONEE-CHAN THAT." I WAS A LITTLE HURT.


DAD SAID HE LOVED MOM THE MOST.
I WAS ACTUALLY HOPING HE WOULD SAY HE LOVED ME THE MOST, BUT HIS ANSWER HAS SATISFIED ME EVER SINCE.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'D BEEN MARRIED FOR TEN YEARS... HOW WONDERFUL.
THEN MAYBE HE DIDN'T REGRET IT
HM?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?


EVERYONE,
LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE FOR A WHILE
ARARE
AH, SORRY AM I BOTHERING YOU AGAIN?
NOT AT ALL
I JUST THOUGHT THAT WE SHOULD TALK A LITTLE CLOSER TOGETHER.

PLEASE
ARARE, HAVE YOU GONE OUT?
ARARE?
NEITHER MOM'S CALLING FOR ARARE,
CAN REACH THEM.
KENJI
KENJI
OR SEI-OJISAN'S CALLING FOR KENJI-SAN

Kuzuyu
Fukuyadon
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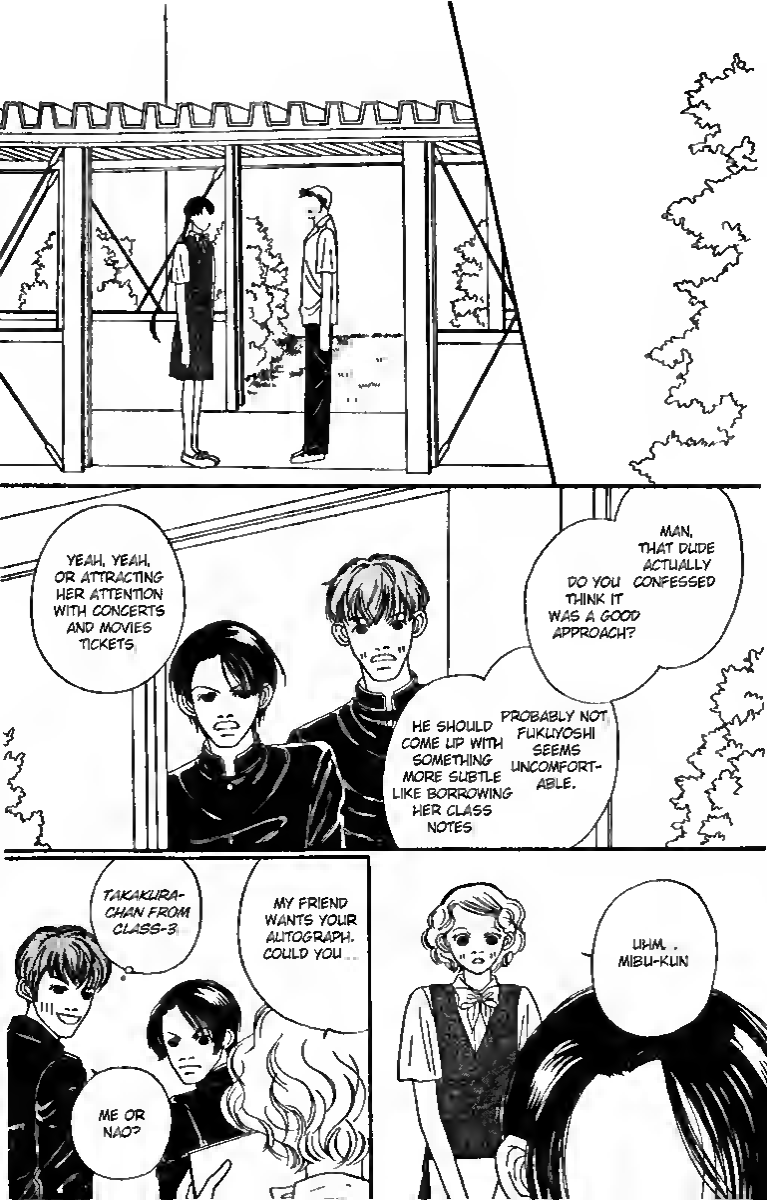
Fukuyadou Honpo
The grandsons of the Mibu Family
23

I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO BORROW YOUR NOTES FOR BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY SUBJECTS BEFORE THE EXAM
THE TWO OF US AREN'T GOING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AND THE DAY AFTER THAT WILL BE FINALS. WE NEED THE NOTES TODAY!
BUT THERE WERE NO BIOLOGY OR CHEMISTRY CLASSES TODAY.
SO I DIDN'T BRING MY NOTES
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THE EXACT DATE
THERE, THERE, YOU TWO.
EVERY PROBLEM HAS A SOLUTION

THESE TWO GUYS ARE COUSINS. THEY ARE MIBU NAOSUKE AND MIBU KURASUKE. I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THEM WHEN I ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL
FOR SOME FAMILY REASONS, THEY ARE OFTEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL
BUT YOU WERE WRONG TOO, NAO. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER THE DATE.
AND THAT HOT TEMPER OF YOURS WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
YOU'RE WAY TOO LAID BACK. THE FINALS ARE TOMORROW!
NAO REGRETS HOW HE SPOKE TO YOU THAT DAY. PLEASE ACCEPT THEM, OKAY?
.....
O-OKAY THANKS
IF I REFUSED, THEY MIGHT HAVE HATED ME FOR REAL, SO I ACCEPTED THE TICKETS.
I HAVE TWO EXTRA TICKETS TO A PLAY. DO YOU WANT THEM?
THE FIRST TIME WE MET, MIBU CALLED ME A STUPID GIRL, BUT AFTERWARDS...

* Noh – a major form of classical Japanese musical drama. Many characters are masked, with men playing
AS A RESULT, I OFTEN RECEIVE TICKETS TO MOVIES, CONCERTS, OR NOH* PERFORMANCES FROM THEM.
.....
THANK YOU FOR USING THEM FOR US
MY HOUSE RECEIVES THESE TICKETS FOR FREE ALL THE TIME AND WE CAN'T GO TO ALL OF THEM
I'M SORRY, FUKUYOSHI CAN I BORROW YOUR NOTES FOR THE CLASSES I MISSED LAST TIME?
SINCE THEN, WHENEVER THEY'D MISS SCHOOL I'D LEND THEM MY CLASS NOTES
WE'RE SAVED
REALLY
!!!.
SURE, IN RETURN OF THE TICKETS YOU GAVE ME
FOR SOME REASON, BOTH OF THEM RELY HEAVILY ON MY NOTES.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU GUYS WOULDN'T BE GOING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
RIGHT NOW IT'S THE SUMMER OF OUR 2ND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL

YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! DON'T YOU KNOW WE WANT TO GET GOOD GRADES ON THE EXAMS, TOO?
OR IS IT BECAUSE IT'S AN IMPORTANT EXAM THAT YOU WANT TO HOG THE NOTES TO YOURSELF?
HOW COULD HE SAY THAT?!
AS IF I'M GOING TO READ THOSE NOTES DAY AND NIGHT.
NIBU-KUN'S MOUTH IS AS FOUL AS EVER BUT MY ORIGINAL AVERSION TO HIM HAS GONE.
KURA, WHAT DO WE DO?
UHM... CAN WE GO TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY TO BORROW YOUR NOTES?
YOU MEAN NOW?
THAT WOULD WORK.
.....
BUT I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING FIRST. PLEASE WAIT FOR A WHILE.


MAN, THAT DUDE ACTUALLY CONFESSED
DO YOU THINK IT WAS A GOOD APPROACH?
PROBABLY NOT FUKUYOSHI SEEMS UNCOMFORTABLE.
HE SHOULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE SUBTLE LIKE BORROWING HER CLASS NOTES
YEAH, YEAH, OR ATTRACTING HER ATTENTION WITH CONCERTS AND MOVIES TICKETS.
UHM, MIBU-KUN
MY FRIEND WANTS YOUR AUTOGRAPH. COULD YOU...
TAKAKURA-CHAN FROM CLASS-3
ME OR NAO?

SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
WOW, SHE'S SO CUTE
BOTH PLEASE
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
If its Takakura asking, I'd do anything
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT MY FRIEND IS A BIG FAN
CAN I TAKE YOUR PICTURE?
Do you guys do this a lot?
UNBELIEVABLE AN AUTOGRAPH?
IT'S NO SURPRISE FOR KURA-KUN, BUT FOR MIBU-KUN TO GO ALONG WITH IT...
ha ha ha
UHM, MIBU-KUN.

PACHI
HEY!
YOU HEARD HER. LET HER TAKE YOUR PICTURE!
IGNORE
Not going along with it anymore Nao-chan? Ha ha ha
IGNORE
UM..
BYE
TH-THANKS
HOW LONG ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO WEAR YOUR WINTER UNIFORMS?
IS THAT SO..
BUT IT'S MORE DASHING
THE SUMMER UNIFORM DOESN'T SUIT OUR IMAGE, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN PEOPLE WILL TAKE YOUR PICTURE
PACHI

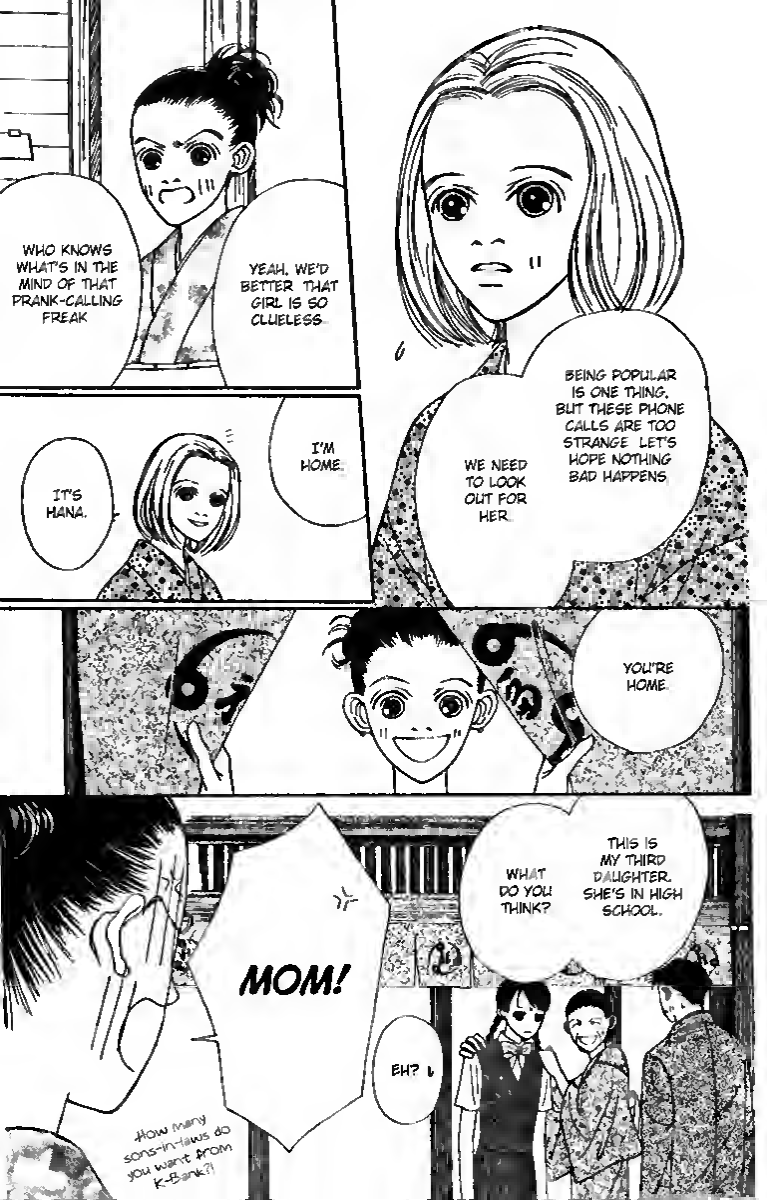
THESE GUYS ARE...
.....
DID YOU GET BOTH OF THEM?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
...REALLY POPULAR
BOTH THE CHEERFUL KURA-KUN AND THE TOUGH-OUTSIDE-SHY-INSIDE NAO-KUN ARE VERY EYE-CATCHING.
HONK
stop

T/N *In Japan, yakuza and politicians often own black Mercedes with tinted windows
WHZZ
EEK!
WHOA! A BLACK MERCEDES*!
FUKUYOSHI KNOWS THIS GUY?
GOING HOME?
YES. ARE YOU STILL WORKING?
YEAH.
ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH HANA-CHAN?
EH?! HINOYAMA-SAN!
AH, AREN'T YOU THE MIBU BOYS?

YEP, HE'S MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.
YEAH. IS HE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, FUKUYOSHI?
OH, YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
SO THE BRIDE WAS FUKUYOSHI'S SISTER
YEAH, GRAND-FATHER SAID HINOYAMA-SAN GOT MARRIED
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A RIDE, BUT I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY OFFICE FIRST
IT'S OKAY. TAKE CARE.
VROOM
YEAH, TWO OF THEM.
YOU HAVE A SISTER?
YES, GOOD DAY.
SEE YOU, MIBU-KUN. GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR GRANDFATHER.

FUKUOJI
OH, CHIHARA-CHUSOU OF FUSHIMI? THAT FAMOUS SAKE SHOP?
OH, THERE ARE MORE? IS SHE LIKE YOU, FUKUYOSHI? INTRODUCE US!
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING, KURA-KUN
SHE'S OLDER THAN US, ISN'T SHE? BUT I DON'T MIND. MAN, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO YOUR HOUSE.
MY OLDER BROTHER SUCCEEDED THE BUSINESS SO I'M FREE TO WORK OUTSIDE
I SEE
YOU'RE THE SECOND SON? I HAD NO IDEA
RRRR
K-BANK IS SURE FULL OF PEDIGREES.
ARE YOU STILL SINGLE?
YES, MA'AM MY FAMILY WANTS ME TO WAIT UNTIL I'M MORE ADVANCED IN MY CAREER.
BUT I HOPE I'LL MEET A WONDERFUL LADY LIKE HINOYAMA-SAN'S WIFE SOMEDAY.
HOW PERFECT. YOU KNOW I HAVE ANOTHER LOVELY DAUGHTER

.....
ARARE. AN ORDER?
HELLO. THIS IS THE FUKUYA SHOP.
HANA? MAY I ASK WHO IS CALLING?
SLAM
HE HUNG UP WHEN I ASKED FOR HIS NAME. WHAT THE HECK?
WHAT KIND OF BOYS IS HANA BE-FRIENDING?
EH? AGAIN?
THERE'VE BEEN A COUPLE OF THOSE PHONE CALLS LATELY
I'M WORRIED SHE'LL GET ASKED OUT BY SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS
WHAT? HANA'S BECOME POPULAR?
FINALLY THE BOYS HER AGE HAVE OPENED THEIR EYES.

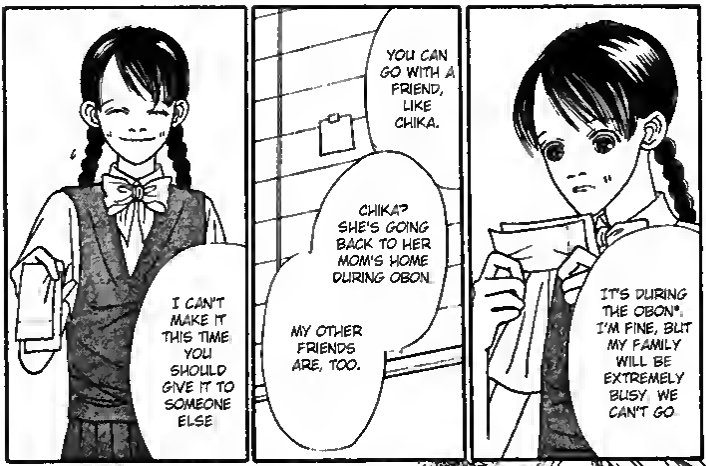

WHO KNOWS WHAT'S IN THE MIND OF THAT PRANK-CALLING FREAK
YEAH. WE'D BETTER THAT GIRL IS SO CLUELESS.
I'M HOME.
IT'S HANA.
BEING POPULAR IS ONE THING. BUT THESE PHONE CALLS ARE TOO STRANGE. LET'S HOPE NOTHING BAD HAPPENS.
WE NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR HER.
YOU'RE HOME.
MOM!
How many sons-in-laws do you want from K-Bank?!
EH? ↓
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS MY THIRD DAUGHTER. SHE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL.

YOUR FRIENDS?
ARARE-CHAN, MY FRIENDS CAME TO BORROW MY CLASS NOTES. CAN I USE THE COPY MACHINE?
CHIHARA-SAN, LISTEN. DATING AN UNDERAGE GIRL ISN'T A GOOD IMAGE FOR A BANK EMPLOYEE.
HUH?
HELLO
BOYS!
.....
WOW! NEE-SAN, YOU'RE REALLY AS BEAUTIFUL AS I IMAGINED!
MAY I REMEMBER THIS AS THE DAY WE FIRST MET?

ARARE-CHAN? WHAT A CUTE NAME!
HANA, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH HIM?
KURA-KUN, SHE IS GETTING MARRIED SOON BACK OFF BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
Singled out Arare before anyone else. That's Kura-kun to you
Eh? You're getting married?
I wish we had met each other sooner I'm sure your fate would be completely different if we had
.....
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET YOU TWO BEFORE.

NO, MA'AM THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
.....
Let's go check it out together
Nee-san is the copy machine is plugged in?
Could you make a copy for us Fukuyoshi?
WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?
WHERE DID I KNOW THEM FROM?
MIBU?
KURA?
!

STACK
STACK
THANKS, FUKUYOSHI! WE'RE SAVED.
AH, I ALMOST FORGOT.
YOUR WORK AT HOME MUST BE TOUGH.
DON'T MENTION IT. ARE YOU NOT COMING TO SCHOOL AGAIN TOMORROW?
UH, WELL... OH, NAO, GIVE THAT TO FUKUYOSHI.
A TICKET TO A PLAY?
FUKUYOSHI, WILL YOU TAKE THIS?


I CAN'T MAKE IT THIS TIME YOU SHOULD GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE
CHIKA? SHE'S GOING BACK TO HER MOM'S HOME DURING OBON.
YOU CAN GO WITH A FRIEND, LIKE CHIKA.
MY OTHER FRIENDS ARE, TOO.
IT'S DURING THE OBON*. I'M FINE, BUT MY FAMILY WILL BE EXTREMELY BUSY. WE CAN'T GO

T/N Obon is a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the deceased ancestors. People usually return to their hometowns and visit and clean their ancestors' graves.

IT'S A VERY BUSY TIME OF YEAR FOR US. SHE MIGHT WANT YOU TO STAY HOME AND HELP OUT.
HANA.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK MOM?
HE'S GOT GUTS ASKING A GIRL OUT IN FRONT OF HER FAMILY. IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
MAN, HER HOUSE SURE IS STRICT.
OKAY. I'LL ASK HER.
YOU CAN GO!
WHICH ONE ASKED YOU?
BUT WHATEVER. ANYONE IS FINE.
MOM...
What happened?
What on earth happened to you?

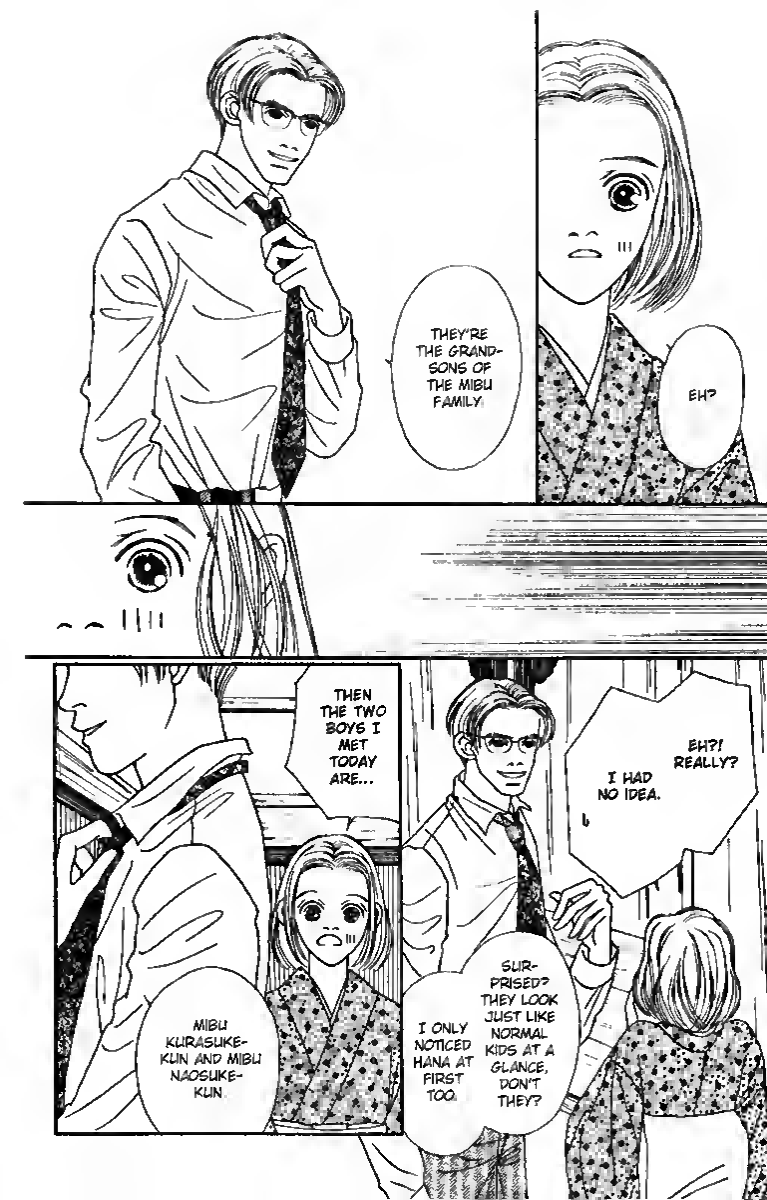
IT'S MIBU NAOSUKE, THE SHORTER ONE.
AREN'T YOU POPULAR WITH SHORT GUYS?
ABSOLUTELY. YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION. WHY NOT?
BUT WITH ONLY TWO OF US, IT'S KINDA...
OKAY.
UM... MADAM?
OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE?
YOU'RE DONE, RIGHT? SEE YOU LATER.
BYE BYE
I thought she was going to introduce me to her daughter
A SON OF CHIHARA-CHUSOU SAKE? HE ALMOST HAD ME.

THESE ARE THE GRANDSONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY!
SORRY. EVEN THOUGH MOM SAID I COULD GO, I'M STILL NOT SURE.
YOU SHOULD GO WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
.....
IT'S OKAY. KEEP IT. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW YET, RIGHT?
I'LL WAIT BY THE RECEPTION HALL AT 2 PM.
JUST DON'T GIVE THE TICKET TO SOMEONE ELSE IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT.

WAY TO GO, NAO-CHAN! YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU ASKING A GIRL OUT LIKE THAT.
Mommy is so proud of you
MY.. HE WON'T GO WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN HANA
O..OKAY.
IF I WERE YOU, I'D ASK YAMAZAKI FROM CLASS 4. YOU'VE GOT MORE OF A CHANCE WITH HER.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME WITH FUKUYOSHI, IT'S HARD TO TELL.
BUT KOJIMA FROM CLASS 5 IS NICE, TOO
OF COURSE THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
NOT JUST HER LOOKS
FUKUYOSHI IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
OR TEZUKA. THIS IS A TOUGH DECISION
AH. WAIT. OR MAYBE MIKA-CHAN?

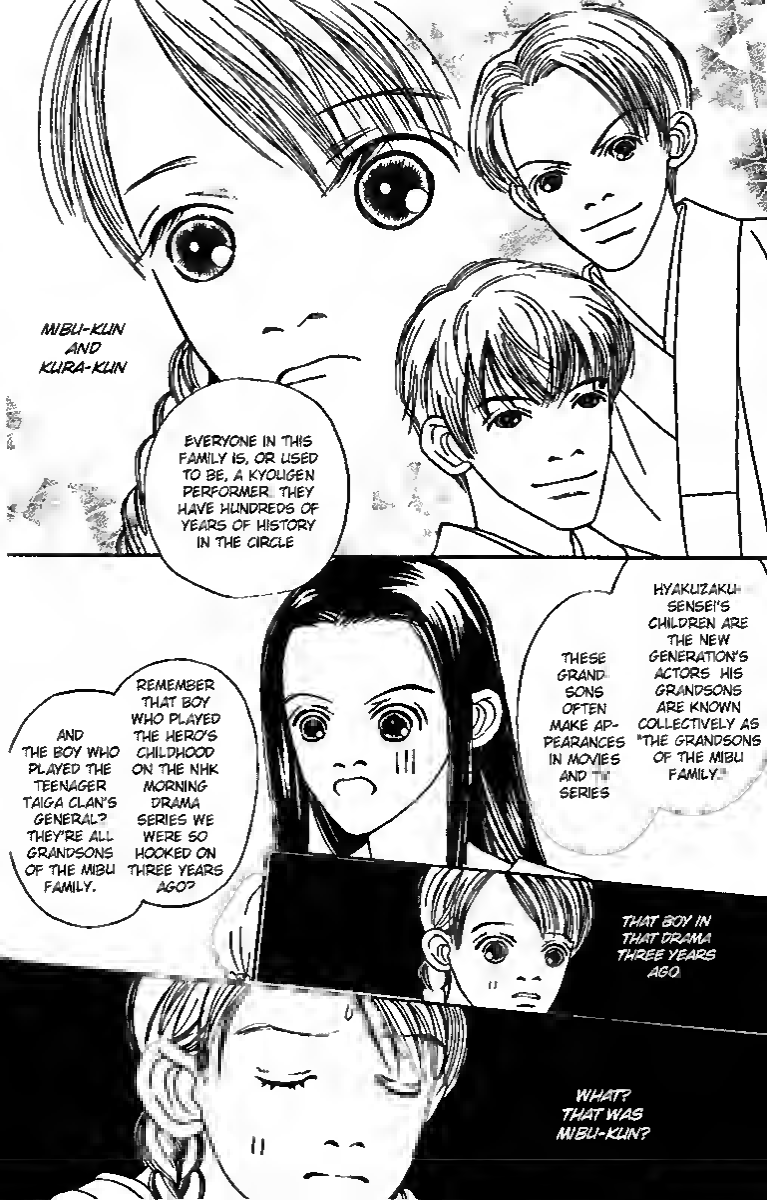
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE AN EVIL THOUGHT IN HER HEAD AT ALL. SUCH A SWEET, PURE-HEARTED GIRL
BUT ISN'T YAMAZAKI FROM CLASS 4 MORE YOUR TYPE?
NAO, I NOTICED HER FIRST
NAO, YOU'RE REALLY HUNG UP ON THAT GUY FUKUYOSHI WENT OUT WITH, MAN.
KURA, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW ME YOUR JUNIOR HIGH YEAR-BOOK?
WELL, FINE. BUT FUKUYOSHI HASN'T SAID YES.
ACTUALLY I ALREADY CHECKED BUT THERE WAS NO PHOTO OF THAT GUY.
BUT I'LL REMEMBER HIM IF I SEE HIM AGAIN.

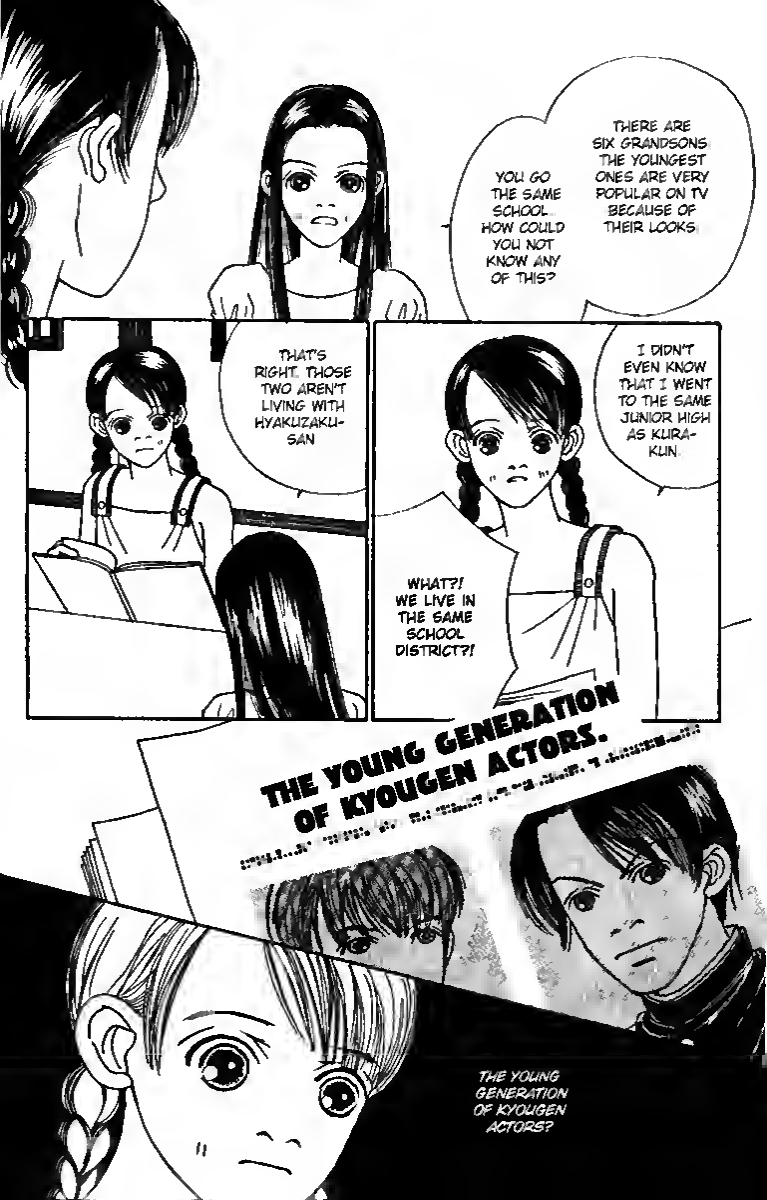
Just to keep me off Fukuyoshi
ARE YOU SURE HE ISN'T IMAGINARY?
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH. HE'S QUITE SHORT. BUT I NEVER SEE HIM AROUND ANYMORE. MAYBE HE WENT TO A HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF KYOTO. I WONDER IF HE'S STILL SEEING FUKUYOSHI.
NO, YOU MORON. I SWEAR HE'S REAL!
I'M BACK
WELCOME HOME.
I SAW HANA TODAY
SHE WAS WITH MIBU-KUN
YOU KNOW THE MIBU BOYS?
OUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN WELL-ACQUAINTED FOR A LONG TIME.
I'VE KNOWN THEM SINCE THEY WERE YOUNG. I THINK YOU'VE MET THEIR PARENTS ON ONE OCCASION
MY GRANDFATHER IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THEIR SPONSOR GROUP.
SO I OFTEN ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE THEATER


THEY'RE THE GRAND-SONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY.
EH?
THEN THE TWO BOYS I MET TODAY ARE...
MIBU KURASUKE-KUN AND MIBU NAOSUKE-KUN.
I ONLY NOTICED HANA AT FIRST TOO.
SUR-PRISED? THEY LOOK JUST LIKE NORMAL KIDS AT A GLANCE, DON'T THEY?
EH?! REALLY?
I HAD NO IDEA.

THE GRANDSONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY?!
THE YOUNGEST GRANDSONS OF MIBU HYAKUZAKU-SENSEI, THE WAKURA-STYLE KYOUGEN* ACTOR.
T/N Kyougen is the classical Japanese comedy pe formed between each Noh play It expresses drama happen ng n daily l fe Its primary goal is to make ts audience laugh
NO MISTAKE. THEY'RE THE CUBS OF THE MIBU FAMILY.
I HEARD THEY'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS HANA'S SCHOOL
NO. IS THIS HYAKUZAKU-SENSEI VERY FAMOUS?
THAT'S WHY THEIR FACES LOOK FAMILIAR.
HANA, DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

SO THAT'S WHY MOM DITCHED THAT SAKE SHOP'S SON WITHOUT A SECOND GLANCE
I THINK I BOUGHT A MAGAZINE ABOUT THEM WHEN I WENT TO SEE NOH. WAIT.
NA-TION-AL TREA-SURE!
HE'S A NATIONAL TREASURE FAMOUS OR NOT, YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
HERE IT IS.
THEATER WORLD
THE GRANDSONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY


MIBU-KUN AND KURA-KUN
EVERYONE IN THIS FAMILY IS, OR USED TO BE, A KYOUGEN PERFORMER. THEY HAVE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE CIRCLE
HYAKUZAKU-SENSEI'S CHILDREN ARE THE NEW GENERATION'S ACTORS. HIS GRANDSONS ARE KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS "THE GRANDSONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY."
THESE GRANDSONS OFTEN MAKE APPEARANCES IN MOVIES AND TV SERIES
REMEMBER THAT BOY WHO PLAYED THE HERO'S CHILDHOOD ON THE NHK MORNING DRAMA SERIES WE WERE SO HOOKED ON THREE YEARS AGO?
AND THE BOY WHO PLAYED THE TEENAGER TAIGA CLAN'S GENERAL? THEY'RE ALL GRANDSONS OF THE MIBU FAMILY.
THAT BOY IN THAT DRAMA THREE YEARS AGO
WHAT? THAT WAS MIBU-KUN?


THERE ARE SIX GRANDSONS THE YOUNGEST ONES ARE VERY POPULAR ON TV BECAUSE OF THEIR LOOKS.
YOU GO THE SAME SCHOOL. HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW ANY OF THIS?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT I WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH AS KURA-KUN.
WHAT?! WE LIVE IN THE SAME SCHOOL DISTRICT?!
THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE TWO AREN'T LIVING WITH HYAKUZAKU-SAN
THE YOUNG GENERATION OF KYOUGEN ACTORS.
THE YOUNG GENERATION OF KYOUGEN ACTORS?

NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSELY, THESE KINDS OF TICKETS ARE USED AS INVITATIONS AND GIFT TICKETS TO THE SPONSOR
HINOYAMA-SAN'S FAMILY IS A SUPPORTER OF MIBU'S KYOUGEN HE RECEIVES THESE TICKETS ALL THE TIME TOO
I GET IT NOW.
THE TICKETS, AUTOGRAPHS, PHOTO REQUESTS,
THEIR ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL, AND WHY THEY KNOW HINOYAMA-SAN
THAT'S RIGHT, HANA BEING HUNG UP ON THAT KID WHO MOVED AWAY IS USELESS
I LOST MY CHANCE TO HAVE A KABUKI ACTOR AS AN OLDER BROTHER-IN-LAW. MAYBE I'LL HAVE A KYOUGEN ACTOR YOUNGER BROTHER-IN-LAW.
HANA, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE PLAY WITH HIM?

YEAH, YEAH. IT'S NO BIG DEAL. YOU'RE WEIRD TO THINK TOO MUCH OVER THIS SMALL THING.
IF IT'S NO BIG DEAL, WHY DO YOU HESITATE, HANA?
GEEZ
.....
MOM, ARARE-CHAN, YOU'RE READING TOO MUCH INTO THIS
HE JUST ASKED ME TO GO TO SEE A PLAY TOGETHER AS FRIENDS. NO BIG DEAL.
.....

IF SHE COMES, IT MEANS WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME WITH FUKUYOSHI, IT'S HARD TO TELL
.....
BUT SHE'S NOT COMING
BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT SHE WON'T COME ANYWAY
.....
SHOULD I WAIT A LITTLE LONGER JUST TO BE SURE?
KURA IS GOING TO LAUGH HIS ASS OFF.
The play is about to start
TICK

HELLO.
ENJOY THE
SHOW.

YOU'RE SO SLOW!
I thought you weren't going to come.
Sante B isn't it?
SHE CAME!

MIBU-KUN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
ARE YOU A KYOUGEN ACTOR?
YEAH. EVERY BOY IN MY FAMILY IS.
I SEE
JUST "I SEE"?
AW, SHE ALREADY KNEW. I THOUGHT I COULD KEEP IT A SECRET JUST FOR FUN
THEN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN?

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ANYBODY?
UHM.. NOT EXACTLY GOING OUT
BUT..
I ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE.
.....
EH?

IN OUR SCHOOL?
HE'S MOVED.
WE STILL WRITE TO EACH OTHER BUT HAVEN'T SEEN FOR TWO YEARS.
HE MOVED DURING THE YEAR SO HE WASN'T IN THE GRADUATION ALBUM.
WHAT A HALF-ASSED ANSWER SHE HAS SOMEONE SHE LIKES, BUT THEY DON'T GO OUT.
THEY DON'T MEET BUT WRITE LETTERS TO EACH OTHER.
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I'VE BEEN TALL.
SO I HAVE A HUGE COMPLEX ABOUT MY HEIGHT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GUY I'VE LIKED SINCE PRIMARY SCHOOL WAS SHORTER THAN ME.
TURNS OUT, HE DIDN'T MIND OUR HEIGHT DIFFERENCE AT ALL. ACTUALLY HE COMPLIMENTED ME.
THAT'S WHY WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, I THOUGHT OF HIM, AND ACTED INAPPROPRIATELY AND UPSET YOU.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE INSECURE ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! OTHER PEOPLE HAVE FEELINGS TOO!

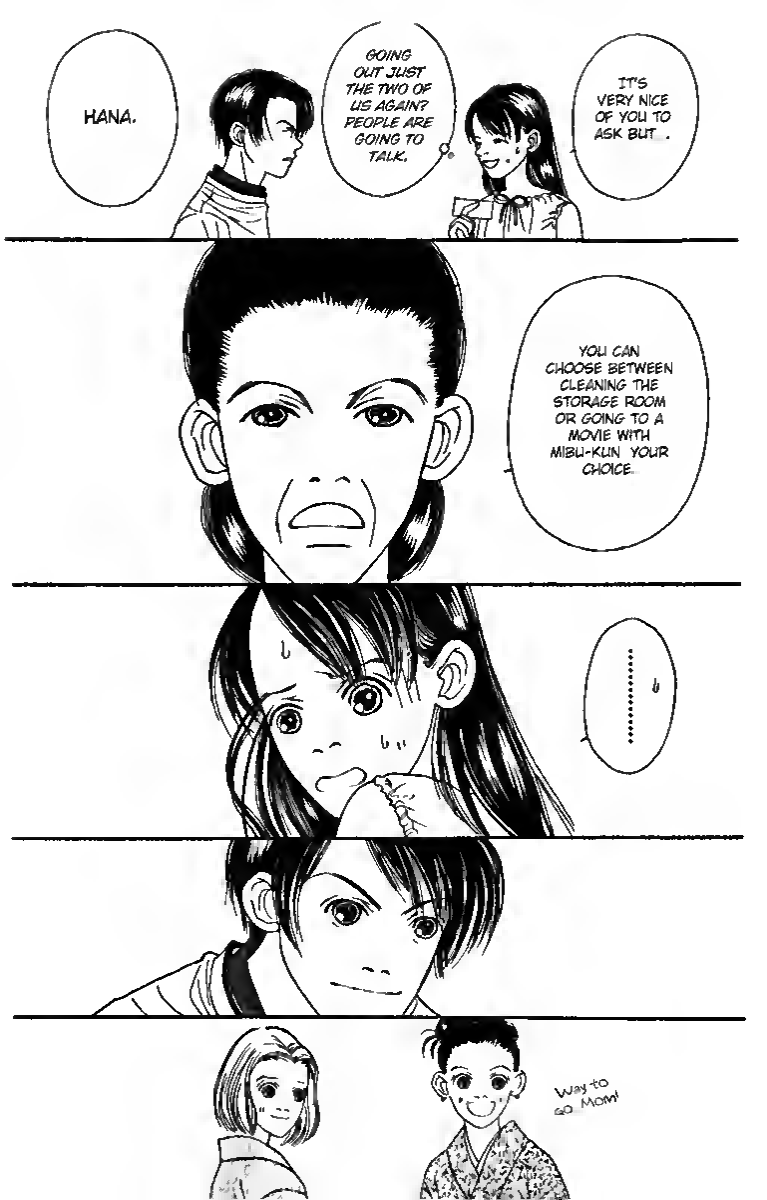
AND EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE VERY TALL,
COMPARED TO OTHER GIRLS YOU'RE MORE...
BUT WE'RE THE SAME HEIGHT NOW
OH, WE ARE?
?
BUT MIBU-KUN WAS TOO SHY HE WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT
HE WAS PROBABLY ABOUT TO COMPLIMENT ME.
AND YOU AREN'T EVEN A REAL COUPLE HE COULD CHANGE
LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS DON'T ALWAYS LAST.

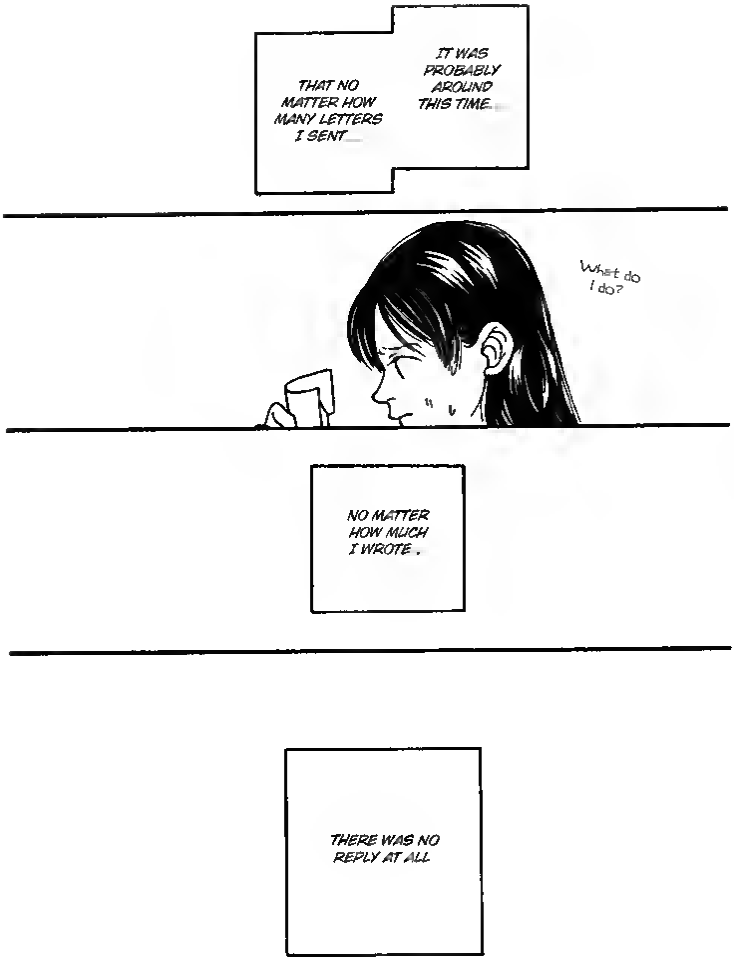
.....
YOU WON'T CHANGE BUT WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHO KNOWS?
NO WAY. HE WON'T CHANGE.
WHY? WELL, ACTUALLY I WAS UNSURE ABOUT US GOING OUT TOGETHER TOO...
AND ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T CHANGING YOUR MIND? WHY DID YOU COME WITH ME TODAY?
BUT MY MOM, SHE TOLD ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN CLEANING THE STORAGE ROOM AND GOING TO THE PLAY WITH YOU. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE.

THEY ALWAYS MAKE SUGI-SAN AND ME CLEAN IT BECAUSE WE'RE THE YOUNGEST. IMAGINE HOW TERRIBLE THAT IS.
MY SHOP'S STORAGE ROOM IS VERY DUSTY AND COVERED WITH FLOUR. NOBODY WANTS THAT DUTY.
CLEANING THE STORAGE ROOM?
IT TURNS OUT THAT MOM IS A FAN OF YOUR GRANDFATHER SHE KEPT TELLING ME TO ASK TO YOU COME
HINOYAMA-SAN WILL GO WITH US TO GOZAN NO OKURIBI* TOO WANNA JOIN US?
OH, MY MOM TOLD ME TO ASK YOU TO HAVE DINNER WITH US TONIGHT
YOU'RE SO PATHETIC, NAOSUKE
I'M JUST A LESSER EVIL THAN CLEANING THE STORAGE ROOM
WHATEVER. I'VE FOUND A GOOD APPROACH
SURE
WILL YOU COME?

*The Gozan no Okuribi (Daimonji) is an iconic festival of Kyoto. It is the culmination of the O-bon festival in which five giant bonfires are lit on mountains surrounding the city

OH, MIBU-KUN! COME IN!
HUH?
WOULD YOU MIND SIGNING AN AUTOGRAPH FOR ME?
.....
FUKUYOSHI.
I HAVE TWO MOVIE TICKETS FOR NEXT WEEKEND. WANNA GO TOGETHER?


HANA.
GOING OUT JUST THE TWO OF US AGAIN? PEOPLE ARE GOING TO TALK.
IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU TO ASK BUT .
YOU CAN CHOOSE BETWEEN CLEANING THE STORAGE ROOM OR GOING TO A MOVIE WITH MIBU-KUN YOUR CHOICE.
.....
Way to go Mom!


IT WAS PROBABLY AROUND THIS TIME...
THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY LETTERS I SENT...
What do I do?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WROTE.
THERE WAS NO REPLY AT ALL

ARARE-CHAN, ANY MAIL FOR ME?
NO ARE YOU EXPECTING SOMETHING?
NOT REALLY
.....
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
SHE WRITES A LETTER TO HIM EVERY-DAY.
BUT THE GUY NEVER WRITES BACK.
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE HE MOVED. SHE SHOULD GET OVER IT ALREADY.

IS HE BUSY? NO, EVEN DURING THE SUMMER BREAK...
OR MAYBE HE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.
OR JUST GOT TIRED OF WRITING LETTERS.
SCRATCH
OR HE'S STOPPED LIKING ME.
DOES HE HAVE A NEW GIRLFRIEND?
nudge

I CAME TO VISIT
OBA-SAN SAID YOU WERE SWEEPING THE BACKYARD.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK DEPRESSED.
LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M SULKING.
TALK TO ME
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN HELP WITH, MIBU-KUN
WANNA EAT SOME ROASTED YAMS?

EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT.
.....
I BOUGHT THEM FROM KYOUGOKURYOU. YOU KNOW, THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR THEIR YAMS!
IT'LL MAKE MATTERS WORSE.
YOU CAN'T THINK WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH.
AUTUMN IS PERFECT FOR ROASTED YAMS.
YOU ALWAYS BORROW MY CLASS NOTES, SO IT'S ONLY FAIR.
WHAT?! YOU TOLD ME TO.
ALL GIRLS EAT TO BE HAPPY.
I FEEL A BIT BETTER ALREADY.
MIBU-KUN, YOU OFTEN MISS SCHOOL, SO WHY DO YOU GET BETTER GRADES THAN I DO?
BE MORE GRATEFUL TO THE HAND THE FEEDS YOU.

I REALLY ADMIRE YOU FOR THAT.
LIES. IT'S BECAUSE YOU STUDY HARD.
BECAUSE I'M A GENIUS.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN AMAZING PERSON

OHO, YOU'RE BLUSHING!
I AM NOT!
MIBU-KUN, STOP ACTING TOUGH TO COVER YOUR EMBARRASSMENT
YOU SHOULD REALLY WORK ON THAT HOT TEMPER OF YOURS, TOO
I DON'T HAVE A TEMPER!
OKAY, OKAY, MIBU-KUN IS AS SWEET AS A LAMB.
YOU!

Fukuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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FukuyaDou Honpo

福家堂本舗

The Past that Returned (1)

I TRIED CALLING HIM ONCE HALF A YEAR AGO
THERE BEEN NO CONTACT FROM IORI-KUN FOR A YEAR NOW.
HAS HE MOVED? OR CHANGED HIS NUMBER?
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.
THE LETTERS I SENT WEREN'T RETURNED. IORI-KUN MUST HAVE RECEIVED THEM BUT DIDN'T WRITE BACK.
IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT I STOPPED WRITING TO HIM, TOO

OBASAN, ISN'T FUKUYOSHI BACK YET?
I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE.
HE MUST HAVE A NEW LIFE TO LEAD.
SHE WENT TO HER TEA CEREMONY CLASS. SHE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.
OUCH!
whack
NAO, SIT PROPERLY.
THERE THEY ARE.
I'M HOME
YOU'RE BACK
AND I HAVE MINE
I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU, FUKUYOSHI.
BUT THE PERFORMANCE WAS A MATINEE.
WHAT?
WHAT'S A SCHOOL SKIPPER DOING HERE?

NEE-SAN, CAN I USE THIS CALENDAR?
SURE.
THIS,
THIS,
AND THIS
THESE ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT THIS MONTH.
TELL ME WHICH DAY IS GOOD FOR YOU.
We'll talk later about where to go and what to see.
.....
WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM.
No time to play.
DON'T WORRY A CHANGE OF SCENERY IS GOOD.
NAO MUST BE BORED HAVING TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME
YEAH, OBASAN!

I'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS WITH MIBU-KUN AND KURA-KUN FOR THREE YEARS.
SINCE LAST SUMMER, MIBU-KUN OFTEN COMES OVER TO PLAY
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN
I UNDER-STAND YOUR FRUSTRATION, BUT IT'S NOT THAT EASY
ALL HE'S DONE IS COME HERE TO HANG OUT WITH HER. IT'S BEEN A YEAR.
THOSE TWO HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE NAO-CHAN SHOULD HAVE SAID IT CLEARLY
HE LOOKS TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT ACTUALLY THAT BOY IS PRETTY SHY
NAO-KUN ISN'T THE TYPE WHO WILL COME ON DIRECTLY TO HANA. HE'LL CIRCLE AROUND FOR A CHANCE TO STRIKE
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU DON'T LIKE HIM VERY MUCH.
NO, I DON'T DISLIKE HIM BUT TO BE HONEST ,
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S GROWN UP IN THE WORLD FULL OF ADULTS
IT'S NOT VERY NICE OF HIM TO USE MOM TO HIS ADVANTAGE ONCE HE LEARNED HER WEAK SPOT

HE WAS SUCH A SWEET AND SINCERE BOY.
YEAH, IORI-KUN...
THAT BOY... WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
STOP ASKING ME OUT IN FRONT OF MOM ALREADY!
WHY SHOULD I? OBASAN DOTES ON ME
WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT WEEKEND?
I HAVEN'T AGREED TO GO WITH YOU!
HOW ABOUT EXPO WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK?
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO EXPO WORLD.
.....
Always wanted to go
I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE.
YOU DON'T LIKE AMUSE-MENT PARKS?
NOT LIKE THAT.
WHAT ABOUT KOBE PORT GARDEN?
THAT PLACE IS FINE.

OKAY, KOBE PORT GARDEN IT IS.
I FELL FOR IT.
WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
NO, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
AND IT'S WEIRD TO ALWAYS GO TO PLACES JUST THE TWO OF US WITHOUT A REASON
IF WE WERE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND, THEN THAT'D BE ENOUGH OF A REASON, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT THAT?

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME AGAIN.
KURA-KUN AND MIBU-KUN, YOU GUYS ALWAYS SAY THAT TO GIRLS.
Humph!
KURA, YES, BUT NOT ME! I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING THAT TO ANYONE.
AND WHAT I SAID JUST NOW WASN'T A JOKE. I'M SERIOUS AS HELL!
.....
Ah
SILENCE
I LOST MY COOL IN FRONT OF HER AGAIN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL THAT TO HER NOW.

BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED. I'VE ALREADY SAID IT.
THE ANSWER?
UHM...
.....
I..
AH, HOLD ON!
STOP.
EH?
TELL ME NEXT TIME.
THINK IT OVER.
.....

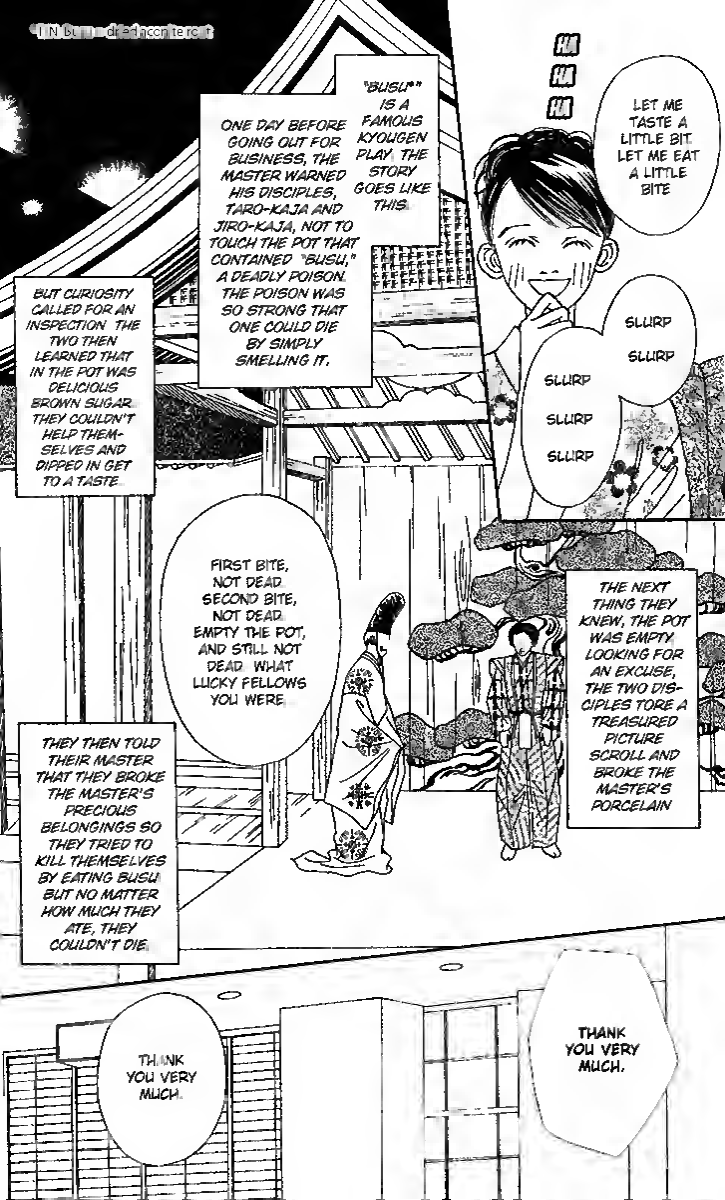
SEE YOU...
.....
.....
.....
SHOULD I JUST REFUSE HIM OUTRIGHT?
BUT I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIS FEELINGS...

THE HANNYA* ON THE ROOF?
HMM, WHOSE FACE DOES THAT HANNYA RESEMBLE?
*T/N Hannya | A mask of a female demon
HA HA HA HA
I KNEW IT! IT RESEMBLES THE FACE OF MY WIFE BACK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE...

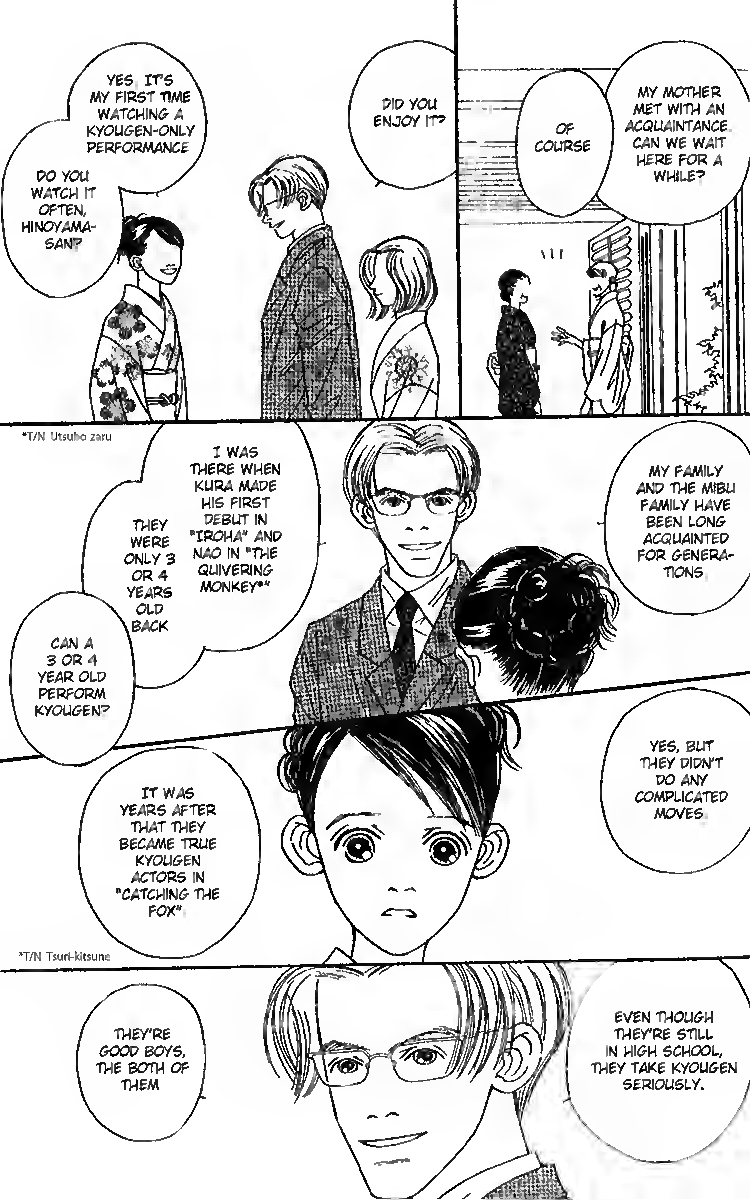
*T/N Koken – The person who sits in the back to pay attention to stage progress. He puts props out, moves artificial products in and out, mends damaged costumes and when some other actor falls he becomes a p nch hitter. Shite – the leading character in Kyougen or Noh. Ado – the supporting character in Kyougen) [Source: tak ginou.shimabara.jp]

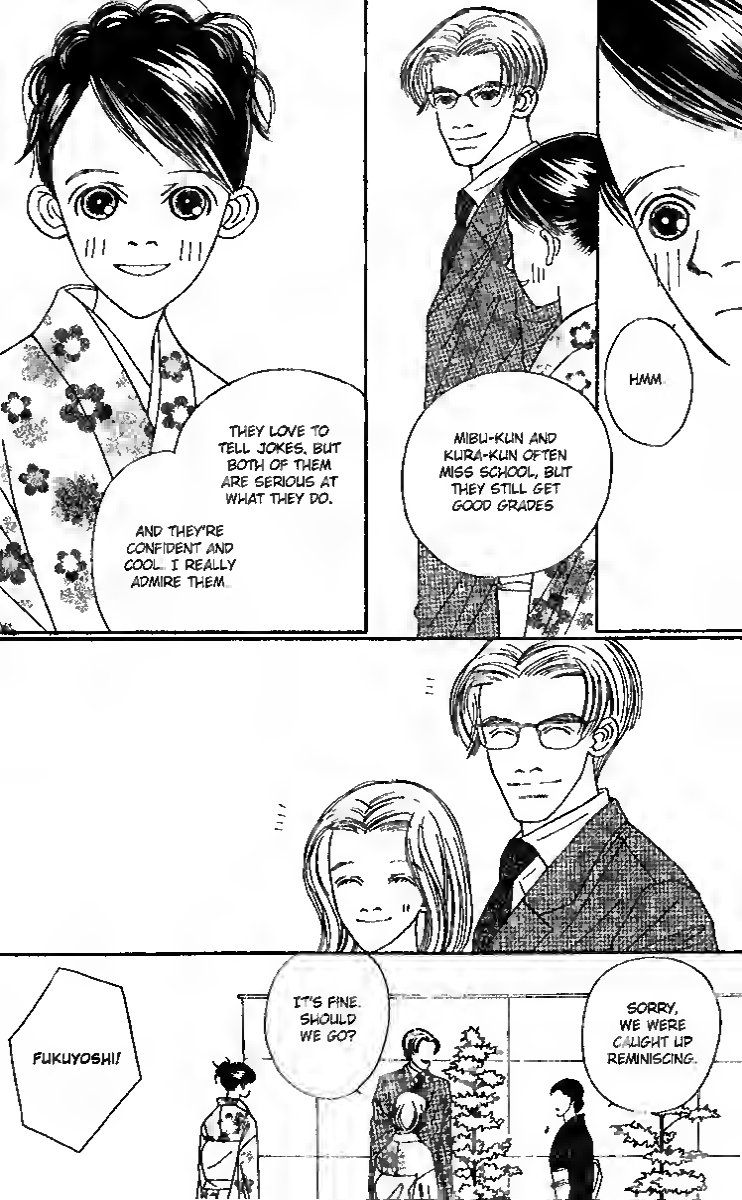
AND KURA-KUN WILL BE THE ADO*
THE NEXT PLAY IS "BUKU," NAO-KUN WILL BE THE SHITE*
YEAH.
NAO-KUN'S SITTING IN THE KOKEN* POSITION.
A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE.
FOR KYOUGEN-ONLY THAT IS.
YES, IT'S BECOMING POPULAR AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.
OH, I'VE ONLY SEEN KYOUGENS THAT ARE INTERMISSIONS FOR A NOH.
I SEE.
YES FAN IT FAN IT.
FAN IT, FAN IT. LET THE SMELL COME OUT.

IN Buju dreadnought


"BUSU" IS A FAMOUS KYOUGEN PLAY. THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS.
ONE DAY BEFORE GOING OUT FOR BUSINESS, THE MASTER WARNED HIS DISCIPLES, TARO-KAJA AND JIRO-KAJA, NOT TO TOUCH THE POT THAT CONTAINED "BUSU," A DEADLY POISON. THE POISON WAS SO STRONG THAT ONE COULD DIE BY SIMPLY SMELLING IT.
HM HM HM
LET ME TASTE A LITTLE BIT. LET ME EAT A LITTLE BITE
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
BUT CURIOSITY CALLED FOR AN INSPECTION. THE TWO THEN LEARNED THAT IN THE POT WAS DELICIOUS BROWN SUGAR. THEY COULDN'T HELP THEMSELVES AND DIPPED IN GET TO A TASTE.
FIRST BITE, NOT DEAD. SECOND BITE, NOT DEAD. EMPTY THE POT, AND STILL NOT DEAD. WHAT LUCKY FELLOWS YOU WERE.
THE NEXT THING THEY KNEW, THE POT WAS EMPTY. LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE, THE TWO DISCIPLES TORE A TREASURED PICTURE SCROLL AND BROKE THE MASTER'S PORCELAIN
THEY THEN TOLD THEIR MASTER THAT THEY BROKE THE MASTER'S PRECIOUS BELONGINGS SO THEY TRIED TO KILL THEMSELVES BY EATING BUSU. BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY ATE, THEY COULDN'T DIE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH, IF IT ISN'T MADAM FUKUYA...


MY MOTHER MET WITH AN ACQUAINTANCE. CAN WE WAIT HERE FOR A WHILE?
OF COURSE
DID YOU ENJOY IT?
YES. IT'S MY FIRST TIME WATCHING A KYOUGEN-ONLY PERFORMANCE
DO YOU WATCH IT OFTEN, HINOYAMA-SAN?
*T/N Utsuho zaru
MY FAMILY AND THE MIBU FAMILY HAVE BEEN LONG ACQUAINTED FOR GENERATIONS
I WAS THERE WHEN KURA MADE HIS FIRST DEBUT IN "IROHA" AND NAO IN "THE QUIVERING MONKEY"
THEY WERE ONLY 3 OR 4 YEARS OLD BACK
CAN A 3 OR 4 YEAR OLD PERFORM KYOUGEN?
YES, BUT THEY DIDN'T DO ANY COMPLICATED MOVES.
IT WAS YEARS AFTER THAT THEY BECAME TRUE KYOUGEN ACTORS IN "CATCHING THE FOX".
*T/N Tsuri-kitsune
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, THEY TAKE KYOUGEN SERIOUSLY.
THEY'RE GOOD BOYS, THE BOTH OF THEM


THEY LOVE TO TELL JOKES. BUT BOTH OF THEM ARE SERIOUS AT WHAT THEY DO.
AND THEY'RE CONFIDENT AND COOL. I REALLY ADMIRE THEM.
MIBU-KUN AND KURA-KUN OFTEN MISS SCHOOL, BUT THEY STILL GET GOOD GRADES
HMM.
FUKUYOSHI!
IT'S FINE. SHOULD WE GO?
SORRY, WE WERE CAUGHT UP REMINISCING.

UGH. LET ME CATCH MY BREATH.
I CHANGED AS FAST AS I COULD. THE COSTUME IS STILL ON THE FLOOR. I'VE GOTTA GO BACK AND DO IT PROPERLY OR I'LL BE SCOLDED SENSELESS.
GOOD. YOU'RE STILL HERE
HANA, WE'LL LEAVE FIRST
OH... OKAY.
EH? AREN'T THEY JUST CLASSMATES?
NAO PROBABLY THINKS DIFFERENTLY
AH. IS THAT SO?
THAT'S A BIT...
WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

THAT'S THE POINT. I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE HIM EASILY IF HE WASN'T SOMEONE I KNOW WELL.
BUT DIDN'T YOU KNOW NAOSUKE SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER? YOU EVEN SAID HE WAS A GOOD BOY.
HUH?!
NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE HAVING A GUY HANGING AROUND MY SISTER, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT REALLY MY SISTER.
Don't worry. I have no such feelings toward Arimasan whatsoever.
Don't worry. I'll play that role wholeheartedly.
You think?
You'll be a very protective father for her.
IT'LL BE GOOD IF YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER
I'M NOT SURE
OH, WILL YOU BE VERY LATE?
REALLY?
IT'S OKAY. I'LL WAIT.
SORRY, HANA. I HAVE A STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING TODAY. YOU CAN GO BACK FIRST.

IF IT GETS DARK AND I STILL DON'T COME OUT, YOU CAN GO BACK FIRST.
OKAY.
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT HINOYAMA-SAN?
NO, WHAT ABOUT HIM?
WHEN THEY WENT TO SEE KYOUGEN TOGETHER LAST TIME, HE SAW HANA AND NAO-CHAN GETTING FRIENDLY AND HE SAID HE DIDN'T LIKE IT.
LIKE SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO STEAL A YOUNGER SISTER FROM HIM.
HEH?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE LIKE HIM WOULD HAVE A CUTE SIDE LIKE THIS, TOO.

IF HE MAKES HANA-CHAN CRY, HE'LL ANSWER TO ME.
MAYBE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A REAL SISTER
I have a sister-in-law though.
¡You sound like a possessive brother
NOT REALLY BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEN-CHAN? IF HANA GOT A BOYFRIEND, WOULD YOU BE UPSET?
YEAH, AND ANOTHER YOUNGER BROTHER-IN-LAW EVENTUALLY
Plus a cold-blooded brother-in-law
BUT SOON YOU'LL HAVE TWO YOUNGER SISTER-IN-LAWS, AN ONEE-CHAN AND A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
HANA'S BOYFRIEND!
ANOTHER YOUNGER BROTHER-IN-LAW?

HANA WILL MEET THAT PERSON SOMEDAY...
OR MAYBE...
SHE'S ALREADY MET HIM.

H...HM...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
SOMEONE IS HERE.
I SHOULDN'T BE SLEEPING IN HIS PRESENCE.
I'D BETTER WAKE UP.

I'D BETTER...
THERE ARE THE TYPES THAT GO STRAIGHT AND THE TYRES THAT SPIN YOU AROUND IN CIRCLES.
BOTH TYPES ARE AT THE SAME LEVEL WHEN THE RIDE STARTS. THEN THEY SEPARATE TO THEIR OWN LAPS AND THEN COME BACK TO EACH OTHER AGAIN
I LIKE THE STRAIGHT ONE BETTER. IT DOESN'T MAKE ME QUEASY.
YOU MEAN THE RIDE AT EXPO WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK?
YEAH, IT'S CALLED DYDRASAURUS

YEAH, WE'LL DEFINITELY GO THERE TOGETHER I PROMISE.
IT'S OKAY. WE WENT TO THE AQUARIUM, TOO. IT'S NICE. WE CAN GO RIDE DY-DRASAURUS NEXT TIME.
SORRY, I PROMISED YOU WE'D GO TO EXPO WORLD BUT WE WENT TO KENJI-SAN'S HOUSE INSTEAD.
IORI-KUN...
KNOCK
AH

You'd better hurry h
SOMEONE WAS HERE JUST NOW. OR WAS IT A DREAM?
I SLEPT SO SOUNDLY.
ACK, SOMEONE REALLY WAS HERE HOW EMBARRASSING
WHO WROTE THIS?
You'd better hurry home.
GEEZ, THAT PERSON SHOULD HAVE WOKEN ME UP.

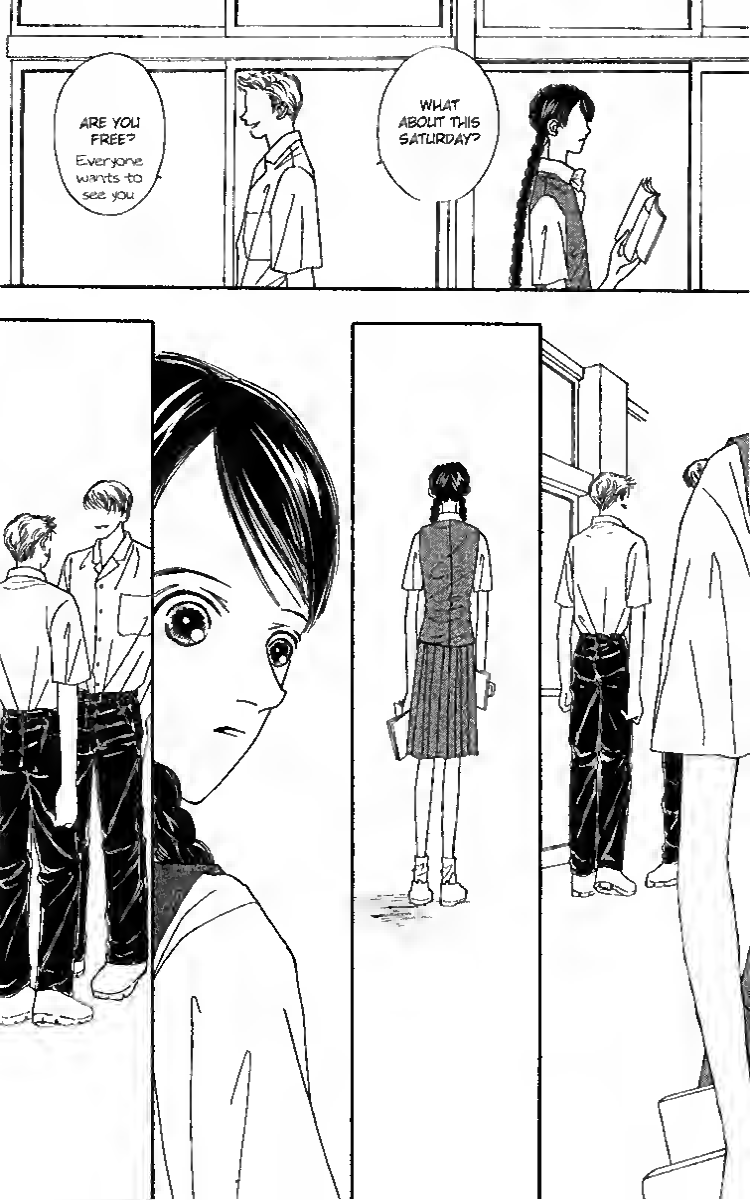
A BOY'S HANDWRITING.
.....
UH...
DID YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID LAST TIME?
.....
WELL...

THEN REPORT THE PROG-RESS,
I DID, A LITTLE...
THIS SIDE IS YES.
THIS SIDE IS NO,
GIGGLE
HOW FAR ALONG IS YOUR ANSWER?
PROBABLY AROUND HERE.

YEAH, BUT I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM.
REALLY?
The "Yes" zone
THAT'S NOT A REASON TO NOT SAY YES.
STOP HESITATING COME ALL THE WAY HERE I HAVE TO TAKE THE EXAM, TOO
THAT'S TRUE
THEN,
.....
HERE.

MY, MY, HOLDING HANDS.
I'm envious.
THE NEXT CLASS IS IN THE LAB. LET'S GO.
WHAT'S WRONG, NAO-CHAN? YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
IF NAO-CHAN CATCHES A COLD, MOMMY WON'T KNOW HOW TO FACE YOUR GRANDFATHER.
KURA, STOP SPEAKING LIKE YOU'RE MY MOTHER!
HANA-CHAN, LET'S GO
YEAH
SLIP

THUD
You'd better hurry home.
THIS HANDWRITING...
IORI!
DO I KNOW IT FROM SOMEWHERE? IT LOOKS FAMILIAR.


ARE YOU FREE? Everyone wants to see you
WHAT ABOUT THIS SATURDAY?

IORI-KUN
FUKU-YOSHI, WE'RE GOING
LONG TIME NO SEE.

OH, I KNOW.
FUKUYOSHI'S BOYFRIEND, MAYBE?
WHO'S THAT GUY?
WHEN I WENT TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING YESTERDAY, I SAW A TRANSFER STUDENT BY THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE.
IT'S HIM. I HEARD HE USED TO LIVE IN KYOTO BEFORE.
!
NAO! DUDE, THIS IS BAD!
WHAT? You surprised me.
?
.....
I SEE.

HM?
TH-THAT GUY...
HE IS THE GUY THAT FUKUYOSHI DATED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
A TRANSFER STUDENT? EEK, SO HE'S RETURNED.
.....
I TRANSFERRED BACK LAST WEEK AND CAME TO SCHOOL JUST YESTERDAY.
badump
YOU MOVED BACK. TO YOUR OLD HOUSE?
YES
badump

AH
YEAH.
SO YOU'VE BEEN IN KYOTO FOR A WHOLE WEEK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE PERSON STANDING IN FRONT OF ME IS IORI-KUN.
I HAD NO IDEA
HAVING TO LIFT MY FACE TO SPEAK WITH HIM . IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S IORI-KUN AT ALL.
I SEE

THAT GUY HAS RE-TURNED.
YOU WERE SHORTER THAN FUKUYOSHI IN YOUR FIRST YEAR, TOO.
HE'S TALLER, BUT I REMEMBER HIS FACE.
YOU SAID HE WAS A SHORTY.
I
I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME.
WELL, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SO.
MAYBE WE SHOULD LET THE PAST BE THE PAST.

HE MUST HAVE A NEW LIFE TO LEAD

I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE.
AND...
I HAVE MY OWN LIFE TO LEAD, TOO.

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つぶあん おはぎ

お彼岸限定

Ohagi / Botamochi

Botamochi are a sentojiwa treat made with sweet rice and sweet azuki (red bean) paste. A very similar treat, ohagi, uses a slightly different texture of azuki paste but is otherwise almost identical. It is made in autumn

The two different names are derived from the Botan (peony) which blooms in the spring and the Hagi (Japanese bush clover) which blooms during autumn

Fukuyadon Honpo

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